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SOME
ACCOUNT OF THE PARISHES OF ST. NICHOLAS
AND ST. LYTHAN.

(Concluded.)

SIR THOMAS BUTTON was famous in an age and in a profession in which fame was not lightly won. He was probably born at Dyffryn, late in the sixteenth century, and seems to have been well educated, and sent to sea in 1592. He must have risen rapidly, as, 25 March, 1604, the Lord High Admiral Nottingham filled up a blank privy seal with a pension in his favour of 6s. 8d. per day, in compensation for a pension in Ireland given away upon a rumour of his death in the Indies. In 1609 he was again in command of a ship; and in 1610 he was one of the "Incorporated Discoverers of the North-West Passage," of which company Prince Henry was the patron. In 1611-12 he was engaged, probably under the influence of the prince, by the merchants of London to follow up the recent discoveries of Hudson, who had been dead about three years. His two ships bore the then unknown names of the *Resolution* and the *Discovery*. With these he entered Hudson's Straits south of Resolution Isle; and, though much impeded by ice, reached "Digges's Isle," where he put together a pinnace which he had brought out. Thus attended, he pushed westwards on lat. 62°, discovered "Carey's Swan's Nest," and explored the western side of Hudson's Bay, discovering

the coast of "Hope Deceived"; and in 57° 10', 15 Aug. 1612, he further discovered and entered "Nelson" River, so named by him from his ship's master. Here he wintered, keeping off the icebergs by a sort of fence of piles. The winter was severe, and he lost several sailors; but like his arctic successors, he endeavoured to amuse and instruct his men, giving them questions in navigation and mathematics. Much of their support seems to have been derived from white partridges, of which they killed eighteen hundred. About April 1613 he was again in motion, exploring the bay into which the river opens, and which he named "Button's Bay," and the adjacent land "New Wales." He sailed north to 65°, and discovered and named "Mansell's Islands," after a Glamorganshire family of kin to him, and themselves not without naval distinction. Returning home, he discovered a passage by Cape Chidley, under the coast of Labrador, and thence reached England in sixteen days, in the autumn, having been "the first navigator who had made the coast of America through Hudson's Straits." On his return he seems to have received knighthood, given by James, but deserved at the hand of Elizabeth.

Among his discoveries was a current from the west, at lat. 60°, which led him to suspect a north-west passage, and which he named "Hubbart's Hope." This his country neighbour and cousin, Capt. Gibbon, was sent out, in 1614, to explore, taking as mate Baffin, afterwards so celebrated, and who in 1615 mentions "Button's Isles."

Button's journal of this expedition, in his own possession in 1629, is lost; which is the more to be regretted as he was not only a careful observer and an able mathematician, but known to have specially studied the variation of the compass. (*Biogr. Univ.*, vi, 402; *Purchas*, iii, 837; v, 819; *Bibl. Miscell.*, No. III; *Harl. MS.*, 1581, f. 313; *Engl. Encyclo.*, i.) As Sir Thomas, in 1628, speaks of having been for fifteen years admiral of the king's ships on the coast of Ireland, it is probable that this appointment, held by patent either for life or

during good conduct, and which included the Land's End and the Bristol and St. George's channels, marked the king's approval of his career in the north.

In addition to the former and rather meagre sources of information concerning Sir Thomas, the new arrangements at the State Paper Office have rendered accessible his correspondence with the Government, parts of which are included in this memoir.

9 June, 1620, Sir Thomas requested speedy supplies for the *Phoenix*, then under his orders for the Irish service; and 5 Sept. he sailed with three ships, "to bridle the people, as they cannot expect much help from Spain." In the same year he had a free gift of £1,452 for special services. The *Phoenix* was still his ship in 1623, when he was ordered to take command of the squadron at Bristol, and pursue certain Cornish pirates.

In 1625, when his name appears in a commission to inquire into the state of the navy (*Fœder.*, viii, i, p. 18), he went to sea as admiral in the *Antelope*; and Capt. Oliver St. John, his nephew, petitioned to accompany him as vice-admiral in the *Phoenix*. About the same time (January or February) Sir Thomas had a privy seal for £3,615 : 13 : 4 for iron ordnance and shot. In 1627 Sir Henry Mervyn expresses to Secretary Nicholas his satisfaction that "Tom Button" is restored to the Duke of Buckingham's favour; and Capt. St. John evidently builds his hopes upon their relationship. 18 Oct. the admiral was at Bristol in the *Antelope*, which he proposes to alter, probably at some future time, as he is only waiting for men and tolerable weather to sail.

He sailed accordingly, but, 6 December, was forced into Scilly, whence he writes to inform Buckingham, then high admiral, that he left King Road with the *Antelope* and *St. Andrew* on the 7th Nov., with five weeks' victual. After doubling the Land's End he sprang a leak, and bore for Scilly, where he is detained by "extremest storms." Five days later he informed the duke that he had reached Plymouth, that his provisions were spent, but that he had revictualled, except beer, for four-

teen days. He reported that Mervyn was in charge of the narrow seas, and Sir Henry Palmer of the west. For himself he asked the Severn station, with such ships as might enable him to cope with the French who lay off its mouth. His rank at this time was captain and admiral. St. John attended him in command of the *St. Andrew*, but the ships were not very sound. He was hopeful of the *Rainbow* and *Bonaventure*, but he feared for the *Esperance* and the rest.

From Plymouth he went to Portsmouth, where Mervyn reported his arrival on the 12th Dec.; and whence he writes from the *Antelope*, in Catwater, 4 Jan. 1628. Here he was much pressed by the Admiralty to get to sea; and he treats them much as some of our modern admirals treat that much enduring board, and is evidently regarded as a Tartar. "What Sir Thomas writes, I know not," wrote Sir James Bagg to Nicholas; "but you know his way." His demands were for sailors, powder and provisions, and means of repairing the *Rainbow* and *Bonaventure*. Also he complains that he has not of late been addressed as "admiral of the king's ships on the coast of Ireland," which he had been these fifteen years.

8 Jan. he expected to sail in a few days, with his subordinate, Capt. Thomas, picking up the *Rainbow*, then under repairs at Plymouth Quay, and the *Bonaventure* at Saltash. On the 19th he writes to Nicholas on the general fear of an invasion, urges more ships for Ireland, and recommends to command them Capt. Rice of Dynevor (Sir Thomas' brother-in-law or nephew), with the rank of vice-admiral; Capt. William Thomas, his nephew, and others of his own name and family. He promised—discreditable more to the age than to the man—£100 to Nicholas for his favour, and shewed the profit that might arise if he could stop the trade of the Easterlings round the west of Ireland. The *Joan* also appears as one of his ships.

These representations probably took effect, for 8 Feb. Button, Mervyn, Bagg, and Sir Ferd. Gorges, meet in

council at Plymouth to consider the danger of a Spanish invasion, and the position of the French force near Rochelle.

Button's recommendations of more ships on the Irish coast were evidently worked against him, for 12 Feb., from the *Antelope* in Plymouth Sound, after reporting the repairs of the *Antelope* and *Joan*, and pressing their employment on the Irish coast, he attributes the objections raised to spite against himself, and referring to certain intrigues, adds: "All the world will take notice if I be unhoused of the ship in which I have so long served. If dismissed, I shall shelter myself under the lee of a poor fortune, which, I thank God, will give me bread; and lay down my sword as the old Roman did, 'votis non armis vincitur.'" True to his nepotic notions, and confident as any Napier in the merit of his blood, he ends by recommending his nephews, Capts. Edmund and William Button, and his cousin, Captain Martin Button.

The admiral's merits do not, however, rest upon his own statements, for 13 Feb., the Earl of Denbigh, who held a high naval command, writing to Buckingham, says, "he should be sorry if so able and honest a man as Sir Thomas Button were neglected."

We next find Button, after the manner of admirals, at war with the Navy Board, who complain that, contrary to the duke's order, he has repaired the *Joan*, merely to employ his kinsmen; and that he cares for no orders save direct from the duke: a charge very likely to have been true.

In August Sir Thomas was again on the Irish seas; and in future we hear much of the *Lion* and the twelve whelps; a family of ships which seem to have been of great service.

8 Aug., Capt. Wm. Jewel reported that four of the whelps had chased five sail of French and Dunkirk ships, when two escaped, and three were taken, of which the richest foundered. Among the captains were Gibbon and one of the Buttons. Here it appears that the

admiral held a share in a private venture, as one of the "Adventurers" trading to Guinea. In 1627 that body took out letters of marque for two ships of sixty tons, and afterwards for the *John Bonaventure*.

5 Nov., Capt. Jewel, arriving with the fifth whelp at Plymouth, from Rochelle, sent in an account of what was doing there. Sir Thomas was at Milford, whence, on the 28th, he wrote to Nicholas about the Irish command. His kinsman, Mr. Robt. Mansell, advised him to go to town, but private affairs detained him.

17 March, 1629, he certified to the merits of Capt. John Winter.

1 May we find him appointed to the *Lion* for the guard of the Irish seas; and, 1 June, Thomas Morgan reported himself from Portsmouth with the ninth whelp. Sir Thomas had reason for his representations, for 8 June, Richard Aldworth of Bristol stated that a French man-of-war lay between the Holmes and Bridgewater, and, pretending ignorance of the peace, had captured a trow.

In August, Button and his whelps were on the Irish sea; and, 17 Sept., while commanding the *Convertive*, he fell in with four Frenchmen chasing a Welsh collier, and captured one of them, the *St. Jehan* of Dunkirk, laden with salt and cognac; an event which proved a constant source of trouble to him for some years. Capt. Thomas, who seems to have assisted at the capture, brought the prize into port.

The admiral applied to the Admiralty for permission to retain the prize until he could take her to Bristol; but he was driven by contrary winds to Milford, whence he asked for £1,400 on account of her value, to enable him to free his land, engaged for money spent in the service. He mentions having been two years from home, and sent off Capt. Edward Button with the prize. 26 Sept. he was at Milford with the *Convertive*, pressing for the whole instead of half the value of the prize; so that he might buy up the king's share in her appraise-ment, and spend the amount in the supply of his ships.

He also advised fitting up the prize, and placing her under Capt. E. Button.

In October he wrote the following letter :

To the Wor^{ll} Edwarde Nicholas esquire secrytarye to the Lords Commissioners and one of the Clerkes of his Ma^{ties} Counsell, these att his house in King streat deliver this.

NOBELL S^a.

I have written seaverall letters unto you since my cominge heere with the prise, but have not received no answer of any of them w^{ch} makes me duptfull whether you have received them or noe. The French men hath procurde a comission out of the Admiraltie to Mr. Willet, Mr. Langton, Mr. Shrife Colson, and Mr. Derick Popley for to seaquester the shipp and goods into their hands. Mr. Poplye came aboard with sixe of the French men and would have me to deliver the possession of the shipp and goods into their hands, upon that I tould him for the goods that they might seaquesher with all my harte but for the ship I would keep possession of, as yf untill such time that I had order, for my men w^{ch} is 20 in number that is belonginge to the Conuertive, and that I knew not no better place for to keepe them together then the ship for theye beane in her ever since shee had bene taken, and I hope they wilbe the fitter men to stave in her than anye stranger, they can put aboard for the charge lieth upon me and I have a desire to have a discharge for my selfe afore I doe dispose my selfe of the shipp. The rest of these busnes I leave to Mr. Willet letters to you, good sire lett mee heere from you as sonne as you can, and thuse with the remembrance of my loue I rest and ever will remaine,

Yo^r true, thankefull servante,

EDM. BUTTON.

Bristoll the 30 of October, 1629.

[State Paper Office, Domestic, Ch. I, vol. 150, No. 105.]

In November, Sir Thomas was at Kinsale, short of provisions, having been beaten about by cross winds between Cork and the Land's End. He complains, in true naval style, of the stores as not so good as formerly, and is evidently at war with the Admiralty, who summon him to Bristol to pay off his ships. In this month also he

sent off Capt. Rice and the ninth whelp for Kinsale, with the following letter :

For his Ma^{ty} especial service.

To the Right Honorable the Lords and others his Ma^{ty} Commissioners for the Governmentt of the Admiraltie att Courte haste these.

Wth all haste possible from aboard the Conventive in Kinsale Harboure this 19th of November, 1629.

THO. BUTTON.

RIGHT HONORABLE,

May it please yo^r lo^p to understand that ever sithence my coming into this kingdome the extremitie of southerlye and easterlye stormes have bin soe violentt and greate that till this daye, noe shipp nor barke bound for Bristoll or anye other porte of England were able to gett hence, and nowe with the first winde I sende away Captaine Rice with the 9th whealpe to lett yo^r lo^p knowe the cause of my stay in these partes soe longe, and wthall whye wth my owne shipp and the other whealpe, order cominge but last night from the Lords Justices and my owne tyme of vitlinge beinge determined since the 17th of this month. I am inforst to stave till vitles be made readye to bring us from hence.

My most Honorable good lords I must humblye begg that I may not suffer in his Ma^{ty} nor yo^r lo^p good opinions for not doinge what was requirde by your first commands, to hasten for the lands end, Plymothe and those partes, nor my longer stay here in these partes (extremitie of stormes beyond example) being the course of both ; then what I justlye deserve, for uppon my life I have not nor will not loose on hower of what I may gaine by the leave of weather with all trew zeale, to performe his Ma^{ty} service and your Lo^p commande : And doe therefore most humbly begg a just construction therein, and that y^r Lo^p wilbe pleased to send som order to his Ma^{ty} customes or some other of the porte of Bristoll that wee may be supplied, when wee com thither and what other order yo^r Lo^p will please to give for the further imployment of these shippes, the coasts att this tyme havinge severall piratts uppon it (thoe in remote parts) whoe will appeare to doe mischeefe as soone as they here the shippes are gone off the coast. Soe humbly leavinge the consideration heereof to yo^r Lo. grave considera-

tion and my selfe to the continuance of yo^r honorable and wonted good opinion, I rest as most bownde faithfullye readye to doe yo^r Lo^p service whilst I am

THO. BUTTON.

From aboard the Convertive in the Horbor of Kinsayle this 19th of November, 1629.

[Ch. I, vol. 152, No. 19.]

A month later, having himself reached Bristol, he again addresses the Admiralty with great urgency, praying for the "making of a baronet," to enable him to redeem his estate of £400 per annum, mortgaged for £1200.

To the Right Honorable & my most honorid good Lo. the Lord Vicounte Dorchester principall Secretarye of State to his Ma^{ty} & on of the most honorable Commissioners for the Admiraltie, at Courte most humbly give theise.

MY MOST HONORABLE GOOD LORD,

The letter from your Lo. and the rest of the Lo^rs Commissioners of the Admiraltie of the 8th of October for the sendinge the Dunkirke prize for Bristoll as likewise yo^r Lo^s letter of the 9th of this presentt cam not to my hand till yesterdaye, and as I performed the first letter thoe I receivde it not sooner, so will I do the like for the carefull layinge upp of the Convertive and 5th whealpe till farther directions, as likewise to affurther the dispatche of the 9th whealpe for Irland, and wishe wth my harte it had stood wth yo^r likinge that the 5th whealpe had bin sentt thither likewise for at this time ther ar 2 piratts on the coaste, w^{ch} by reason of o^r shortnes of vittles wee could not pursue, and in as muche as bothe St. George his Channell, Seaverne and the west partes may be infested, it had bin happie that bothe might have bin imployde. And for the Convertive it is fitted shee should lye still till towards springe and then I believe ther wilbe cause to send hir abroad for that I feare the sea wilbe full of piratts. My Lord the stronge bond you have layde uppon me by yo^r former favoures, assures me that in all just occasions y^t may conserne me I shall fynd the continewance of it, and howsoever that ther is this longe stopp of indication for that shipp; yet if yo^r Lo. cloake be yo^r owne or my howse I dwell in myne (as sure) is shee a lawfull prize: if her beinge a Donkerkre maye make her soe; but if my yll happ

be the cause it can have noe better effectt; I must sitt down wth pacience and saye I am sorie for it and pray to God to send me some better chaunce, for I am sure if his Ma^{ty} be not the more graciouse to me by releavinge me som other waye what wth my great arrears & by this kind of startinge employments I shalbe an undon man quicklye. Wherefore for the presentt prevencion, whereof I am most humblye to beseeche your Lo. and my Lord Stewarde that yo^r will please to send for Mr. Francis Morice the Clarke of the Ordinance and Mr. Reynoldes the master gonner of England, unto whom I have 400*li*. land a year and better, forfeited for not paymentt of 1200*li*. that they will not take the extremitie of the forfeiture and give me longer time of paymentt, and in the interim if this shipp be not adjudged prize that his Ma^{ty} out of his generouse goodness will give me the makinge of a baronitt to paye the consideration of my deapts w^{ch} my estate will not inhale me to doe, thus muche I humbly presentt wth muche bowldness to yo^r Lo. favour and begg yo^r honorable heape to preventt my utter undoinge; if it may any waeye in yo^r Honorable judgmentt seem fitt unto you.

I am at this instantt and have bin by reason of thes great stormes very yll in my head and trold wth som deafnes in so muche as that I shall not be able to wayte on yo^r Lo^p nor to attende my perticuller occasions so soone as otherwise I wold, w^{ch} I shall most humblye begg pardone and beseeche yo^r Lo. protection, that I maye not therefore be subiectt to any censure, for w^{ch} as for all the rest of yo^r most honorable favoures I shall ever be

Yo^r Lor. most humble and ever indeaptid servant,

THO. BUTTON.

Bristoll this 23 of December, 1629.

[Ch. I, vol. 153, No. 82.]

The next preserved letter is from Bristol, 10 December.

To my most woorthye and trewe faithfull friend Edward Nichollas Esquier Secretarye to the Lords Commissioners for the Admiraltie and on of the Clarkes of his Ma^{tyes} most Honorable Privie Counsell give theise.

MY TREWLYE RESPECTID MR. NICHOLLAS,

The Lor^s of the 6th of October and yo^{rs} of the 3rd and 8th of the same I received this daye, cominge last night to this place, yo^r love in all doth muche appeare for w^{ch} I shall never

be wantinge to express my most thankfull acknowledgments, and howsoever I writt their Lo^s my intencion to carye the prize wth me yet before this order or any knowledge thereof cam to my hands, I sentt the prize to Bristoll wth suche of the companye of that prize as alsoe those certificatts under the hande and seale of the Archduches, as alsoe under the seale of Donkerke to prove him prize, besides his not havinge of any Cocquett or bills of ladinge to showe (but by the skippers own confession acknowledge they were thrown overboord by hymsealfe) and that all this could not in all this tyme begett a judication to make her prize is strandge to me and therfor not beinge hable in respectt of myn indisposition of bodye to looke after that busnes my sealfe as yet, I must beseeche yo^r wth their Lo^s favour in justice that it may receive som positive resolution and if not as prize then I say under favour I maye as welbe chalendgd for my howse I dwell in or my cloake I weare and saye it is not myn owne, as that it can be denied that this is good prize: and that is all I can saye in that busnes and for the success I must leave it hollye to God.

For the breakinge of bulke w^{ch} was don by the knowledge and approbation of the skipper, and by w^{ch} ther was neither dishonestie nor losse intendid to whom so ever shee shoulde be judgde, I have formerly writt my reasons of it and if I have offendid in it, I must humblye submitt my sealfe to their Lo^s in yt and supplicatt their charitable construction therin assuring their Lo^s uppon my liffe neither his Ma^{ty} nor the proprietor hathe or shall suffer by it.

For the disposinge of thes shippes as I understand by Mr. Willett it is nowe intendid, I can be but from my harte sorrye for it, for beleave it Mr. Nicholas thoe I could propose awaye howe his Ma^{ty} chardge shoulde not be the same in wynter as in sommer, yet to recover what wee have lost in honore and the subiectt in estate, and wantt of protection, this is not the waye to doe it, but som must alwayes be contynewde as well in wynter as in sommer, and towards that chardge the Lords Justicis of Irland are resolvd to drawe the 2 whealpes into the liste of that kingdom's charge and for this shipp for the next yeare, or some other of good force which I shall make choice of that must be of countenance for the somer season and of competent force to doe service wth, if it wilbe referred to me to make choice of the shipp and take care of the service I will undertake for the Antyllope or this shipp and on of the pinks wth 20 men to contractte the chardge wth in the chardge of on shipp for the hole year wth 120 men and to mayntayn the guard of that coaste wth honor and som profit to his Ma^{ty} securitee to

the subiectt tradinge, and verye muche to the increase of his Ma^{ty} customs and comen good of bothe kingdoms, thus muche I shal beseache yo^r to intymatt to their Lo^s and in what con-searnes me to doe as you wear wont and I shall ever be yo^r servauntt: if they send the 9th whealpe or what other soever for that coast, I hope it wilbe wth relation to me and my instructions whoe have that comand apsolute duringe my liffe, and if in their lo^s wisdomes they howld it fitt not to imploye any greater force for those partes, the towe whealpes they in Irland will take into their chardge to provide for them, and I hope I shall have the comand of them as it is dewe unto me, all wth I reffer to yo^r lovinge and judicious consideration and praye yo^r to acquainte my Lord Steward, my Lord Dorchester and Mr. Secretarye Cooke wth what I write unto yo^r.

So sendinge this berer purposelye to give accountp of what shalbe requird from hym touchinge those moneys that have bin disbursd out of the 6000*li*. recev^d from the Lord of Corke as also to bringe me perticuler answe of all bussnessis from yo^r sealf I rest nowe as I shall doe ever

Yo^r most affectionate & trew thankfull friend

THO. BUTTON.

Ther is to be deliverd to their Lo^s by my pursur on Capten William Scranes of Hampton who beinge sentt for by som warrantt from the judge of the Admiraltie of Munster renderd hym sealf into my protection and nowe comes to answer in the Admiraltie heare what so ever may be obiectid against hym and the rather because hee hathe put in caution of 2000*li*. in the Admiraltie heare which [bin]des hym to acquitt hym sealf of what can be any waye justly layed to his chardge. Whearin I howld hym to be so cleare as I shall beseache yo^r best favour towards hym for that I knowe hee will honestly and thankfully deserve it.

Bristoll this 24th of 10^{bre} 1629.

That I cam noe sooner from Irland uppon my salvation had it bin for the savinge of the kingdom I beinge to doe what I was requirde I could not have preventid it as this berer can give yo^r more perticuller satisfaction.

This daye since the writinge this lett. their Lo^s letter and yo^{rs} of the 9th of this presentt cam to my hands wherein I will performe what is comanndid for the Convertive and 5th whealpe but for the 9th whealpe ther can be no thinge don till money be sentt down for her dispatche and talkinge wth Mr. Willett

and Mr. Kitchinge to knowe wheather they had any they saye no so that therin I can doe no thinge till they please to send money, my hope is in yo^r for all that consernes me.

[Ch. I, vol. 153, No. 85.]

1630 found the prize question still undecided. The admiral, sorely tried, presses for a decision one way or the other, and sends "his love to Jack Pennington." He now visited his house at Cardiff; and as a reason for not going to London, 20 Jan., says, "My only daughter has bad small pox, and the rest of my children are ill at home, and they are many."

Probably in the midst of these troubles, it was grateful to the old sailor to be consulted about his arctic knowledge. His answer to the communication from the Admiralty was as follows:

For his Mat^s especiall service.

To the Right Honorable and very much honored good lord the lord Vicount Dorchester principall Secretarye of State to his Ma^{tie} att Courte or ells where hast these.

THO. BUTTON.

RIGHT HONORABLE AND MY MUCH HONORED GOOD LORD,

Yo^r Lo^s letter of the 14th of Januarye concerninge the North-west passadge wth the coppie of Luke Fox his petition and others in that busines cominge by the way of Bristoll came to my hande but the 14th of this present att 6 of the clock att night, whereby finding his Mat^s pleasure and the contents of their petition the next day the better to inhable my selfe to give satisfaction in a pointe of so highe a nature I overlooked my jornall and those notes and papers that longe have laine by me, w^{ch} I thought would never have bin made use of, consideringe that these later tymes amonge o^r nation rather studies howe to forgett al thinges that may conduce to the good of posteritye by adventuringe six pence if they find not a greate and present benefitt to insew thereof.

But in as much as yett att length it pleaseth God to open the eies of som to looke after soe important a busines for the honor of his Ma^{tie} and not only the comon good of this o^r kingdome, but of all o^r neighbore nations. I shall in answer of yo^r Lo^s letter and in most humble obedience to my most royall masters

comandd, deliver not only my opinion (but under correction my knowledge gotten by the sharpest experience) of that designe of any man of my coate, livinge not only in o^r owne kingdome, but in any other in these neighboringe partes.

What yo^r Lo. writes off that his Ma^{tie} requires to be informed of by me is.

First whether there be any likelihood or probabilitie to compass the designe yes or noe.

To that I answer ; that my opinion is nowe as it ever hath bin sithence my retorne thence and as I then delivered it with the perticuler reasons of it to my most royall master of most famousse memorie that then was king James, that beinge undertaken in a fittinge waye and a dewe season I made and doe make as full accompt of the feasiblenes of it, as I doe of any knowne chanell that is best knowne to us in these norther partes, and to be performed with as little danger (and was so approved by his Ma^{tie} to be) whoe inforst as manye and as important questions for his owne satisfactions, as if all the best experienced mariners of the Christian world had convented them selves togeather to have drawne the interrogatories. The same reasons have I delivered to manye most honorable and knowinge persons and to our best mathematicians as Mr. Briggs Mr. Wells and others with all the best masters and mariners of our kingdome, as alsoe to others both Hollanders and French and in my discourse wth any on of them all, they never went unsatisfied from me of the probabilitie of it and for farther accompt herein att presentt I can give non, but if my journall or any other my notes or papers (wth ought else in me) may give his Ma^{tie} any farther or fuller satisfaction : when I waight on his Highnes (w^{ch} I hope wilbe much sooner then is fitt for them to advaunce (for to sett out to tymelye, is to faule to soone into that danger that to late a repentance cannot healpe them out on) I will doe my best out of my ould experience to affurther the good of it ; and prevent the evells and inconveniencies that pretendinge men, of little experience, or non at all may suddenly bringe uppon it ; for I will bowldlye saye that whoe shalbe fitt to have the manedginge of this unparaleld busines ought first to be soe religiouse as to hould his end the happiest that dyes for the glorye of God the honor of his kinge and the publike good of his countrye all w^{ch} in this designe have their severall and particuler interest, and therefore he must not looke backe for feare of the dainger of either unknowne coastes, hideouse stormes, darke and long continewed mistes, to lye amonge and all wayes to see more landes and ilands of ice, then he can see of sea, and oft tymes rocks under him in sight, when

he shall within thrice his ships length fynde twentye fathom water ; and to incounter this under favor must he be well armed that shall undergoe this busines : for thrice sithence my being there hath it bin attemptid and for owght I here little (or rather I may bouldlye saye noe) advancem^t given to the busines, therefore there cannot be to much curiositie used to putt it into a good and choise hand w^{ch} I will hartilye praye may be most happilye lighted on for wee live not in the adge to fynde that they are the most perfitt which makes the glorioste shewe.

The seconde pointe required is whether it may prove of such benefitt and advantadge as is pretended.

To that I most humbly answer that, that received opinion of former ages (as well as of these moderne times) both in many other cuntryes abroade, as in o^r owne kingdom and amongst o^r owne marchants att home mainetaines and makes good that pointe, therefore to that I can saye noe more, but that I will as hartilye praye that God may give a blessinge to the discoverye ; w^{ch} in the first place must be the imediate introduction to bringe on, and perfitt the rest of w^{ch} honor to be that most happie man weare my yeares sutable to such an undertaking ; or my purse answerable to what in hart I would be most willinge to adventure, I would be loathe any man livinge should undertake it sooner then my selfe, or adventure more towards it then I would : but beinge noe otherwise vsefull in myne owne power or abilitie, then in my welwishinge, and what other affurthrance may lye in me ; yet what I formerlye suffred by my wyntringe doth sufficientlye satisfie all reasonable and experienst men, that to ronnn the hazard or chardge of such a purpose can be to noe other end then the ineuitable hazard of all, and therefore either the passages will be found or not to be hoped for, the first yeare, soe by that assurance the first chardge wilbe much the less, and the course certaine, w^{ch} will effect it the sooner, for nowe there wilbe noe faulinge into Hudsons Baye nor Buttons Baye to mispend tyme as both he and I did to noe purpose and that only by Instructions out of England, but as soone as he comes to the west parte or Cape of Notinghams Iland where he is to anchor, and according to the sett of that tyde, w^{ch} he shall fynde there to direct his course, w^{ch} must be and is the only way to fynde that passadge, w^{ch} I doe as confidently beleave to be a passadge as I doe there is on either betweene Calis and Dover or betweene holy Head and Ireland. This beinge all att present that I can doe in answer of yo^r lo^s letter or for his Mat^s informaçon in this busines, intendinge to bringe upp my jornall, and such other notes as I haue least when I come vpp my selfe for his Mat^s or yo^r lo^s further

satisfaction (but to noe other hand) I most humblye take my leaue assuring yo^r lo^p on my faith yo^r letter came noe sooner, then when I write and if there be any error happens by it, the faulte is not myne, whoe am and allwayes shalbe

Yo^r lo^s most respectiue trew
thankefull and humble servant

THO. BUTTON.

From my howse att Cardiffe this 16th day of Februarye 1629.¹

[Ch. I, vol. 161, No. 10.]

The next and concluding letter was also written from Cardiff on the same day. It appears, from the endorsement, to have followed the Court to Newmarket, and to have been read there.

Indorsed.—S^r Tho. Button y^e 26th of Feb^r red at Newmarket y^e 27, 1629.

Directed.—To the most honorable the Lord Vicount Dorchester I most humblye presentt this.

MOST HONORABLE GOOD LORD :

I have in another letter given yo^r lo. a full accountpe of what yo^r requird touchinge the Northe West passadge but by this I helt it fitt to acquainte yo^r Lo. that ther is a former patentt as full of all powre and immunities graunted by Kinge James (when I went the jorney first) as the best Councell of England could devise and what is don to nichillat that I knowe not, but before his Ma^{ty} be ingagd to graunt this newe (vnder correction) I thinke it wold not be a miss to talke wth Dr. John Wolstenholme or S^r Dudley Diggs whoe then wear chiefe vnder prince Henry for the manadginge of that bus^{ness}, and whom I beleave will give yo^r lo. the best light of what in Hon^r & Justice his Ma^{ty} may graunte to thes peticoners w^{thout} preiudice to the first graunte, w^{ch} I presume yo^r lo. will fynde to be very stronge besides the qualitie of the peticonars to be lookte vppon, whoe if they be noe other then as fox is stilde mear mariners, it cannot promise muche of their extraordinarie performancis, as hath bin made appeare formerlye in this perticuler designe, wittnes Weymothe with many other whose names I cannot remember, who wold never to farr aduaunce in the face of danger either to gaine Honor them sealves (a thinge not

¹ New style, 1630.

naturall nor proper to their dispositions nor understandings) nor profit to posteritye, if gaine and presentt benefit be not the spurr to their resolutions: and thus muche in service to his Ma^{ty} and in my bownden respectt to yo^r lo. vnto whose hande his Ma^{ty} hath comittid the care of it, I helt it my dewtie to acquainte your lo. wth most humblye leavinge it to yo^r lo. mor grave consideration.

Most Honord good Lord vohsafe me the honor and favour not as yo^w ar in place but as yo^w ar my most honorable and trewe approvid good friend, to give me leave vnder the protection of yo^r goodnes, to deploare the condition of my presentt miserable estate and condition to yo^r lo. yt is not unknowen vnto yo^w howe longe I have livde a servante to his Ma^{ty} and prediccursors in publike place, and have never baulkt nor avoidid any employmentt wear it never so remote or dangerouse, so it pretendid to his Ma^{ty} service or the cōen wealthes (as maye well appeare by this employmentt to the North West, the West Indies and all other jorneyes and voidages for this 37 yeares past) in all w^{ch} I hope yo^r lo. hathe partlye knowen, and I hope ever hard that I have caried my sealf like an honest man: it hathe bin the happines of manye of my companions and fellowes in employment in thes tymes, and of many that have sarved muche less tyme to be advauncte bothe in place & fortune. My poore sealf (most vnhappie and that I hope as a punishmentt for my sinns but never for any vnwis thines or dishonestie), am keptt backe not in so good case as I was ten years agoe, for then I owght noe thinge and receivde my paye, but nowe for five yeares past receavinge neither pencion nor paye (but for this last five monthes past that I was on the coaste of Irland) and yet contynued in perpetuall attendance and employmentt, so muche to my chardge that I vowe to God for those moneyes that I have bin driven to bow to attend thes servicis I have morgagde and forfeited neare 500*li*. landes per ann. and havinge petiçioned his Ma^{ty} whose graciouse reference by the favorable expression of your most noble pen, to the Lord highe thresōr and Lord Stewarde did implye som care to be had for my satisfaction: yet not wthstandinge many honorable promisis I have not receivde on farthinge, nor by Baronett nor otherwise w^{ch} I most humbly desird to be grauntid me to paye the consideration, but neither ton nor tother could I ever it gett; w^{ch} is the cause at this tyme I am not only unable to attend his Ma^{ty} pleasure for my farther ymployment, but in my home debard of my wontid freedom, by reason I have not means to paye what I owe (then w^{ch} affliction of this later not to be hable to paye every on his owne) this world cannot laye a greater on

me: besides (as mostly by yo^r trewe honorable favoure in mediatinge for me, his Ma^{ty} was so graciously inclyned to my good, by easinge me in parte of my greate areare, as to be pleasse to graunt me the moyetie of the Donkerke shippe I tooke, but in that there hathe bin suche a stopp made of indication, that I cannot thinke that ther shoulde be any reason for it, but my yll fate that shoulde cause it, for if ever shipp or goods belongd to Donkerke that shipp and goodes did, and that it is most apparant, had it bin otherwise in this 7 monthes that shee hathe bin taken theye wold have producte som what for the satisfaction of the Admiraltye and their own clearinge w^{ch} as yet they could never doe, therfor nowe my most honorid good Lord havinge in a most vnmanerlye waye thus cloyde yo^r noble eares wth an wofull character of my presentt condition, so must I (beinge many wayes warantid therto by yo^r many former honorable favoures) most humblye supplicatt yo^r best favoure not to advaunce nor to affurther my prefermentt in place nor fortune (for I vowe to God I desire neither, but to give yo^r still stretchid out arme to all good men and all good purpose) in assistance, to preventt my rewine whoe have livde as longe and given as good testimonye of my beinge a faithfull and honest servaunt to this State as most men nowe leavinge of my rancke in this kingdom, whearfor most honorable lord vouchsafe the least might of yo^r favore and justice, by vsinge som parte of yo^r powre wth his Ma^{ty} to caste som smale glimse of his graciouse favour towards me as for 37 yeares of tyme spentt in his Ma^{ty} his royall father (of famouse memory decest) and predecessores service, I maye not nowe at the last of my dayes, be rewardid wth rewin and undoinge to me my wiffe and 7 children w^{ch} I doe protest I cannot wthstand if I be not the sooner releivde, and that at least by som waye to paye my consideration money and stoppage my creditores, if not to satisfie me of my hole dewe: for the waye of o^r presentt employments, to be 2 partes of the yeare abroade and the third at home to attend and spend without gettinge any thinge to supporte us, but by borowinge what at last must faule vppon o^r estates is the waye to rewine vs all and not to give the least incoradgmentt to attend or affectt his Ma^{ty} service. The consideration whearof, togethir wth my most humble suite to yo^r Lo. to make a charitable construction of this my boldnes, havinge made choise rather to laye my seaffe at yo^r lo. feat for so greate a favour then to trust to any other waye or hope by the lardge promisis of suche as I fynd producis no other effectts then smoke. I most humbly kiss yo^r lo's hand, assuring yo^r vppon my lyffe that what yo^r lo. shall please to doe for me in this my extrea-

mitye shalbe don to as trowe and as thankfull a man as ever
yo^r lo. have bin pleasde to doe favour to: whoe in all my wayes
and best respectts shall ever approve my sealfe to be

Yo^r lo. most faithfule in all I am:

or can be to do yo^r service,

THO. BUTTON.

From my House in Curdiffe, this 16th of Februarye, 1629.

[Ch. I, vol. 161, No. 11.]

In July, Sidrack Gibbon took a Biscayner, and the
admiral left Waterford with the fleet to free Holyhead
and the Chester river from a pirate.

At last the prize was adjudged to the king, and the
prize agent pressed Nicholas for orders to sell her, and
Sir Thomas had to account for the salt he took from her
cargo. Sir Thomas, who was at Cardiff, had been from
the end of September to the 24th of October sailing from
Dublin to Penarth, and reported his tackle much in-
jured. He asked to have his ship trimmed and graved,
and was much grieved to hear that the prize had been
bestowed elsewhere.

She was sold for £1,000, and Sir Thomas accounted
for thirty lasts of salt taken out of her and sold for
£89. Her cargo was ninety lasts of salt and twenty-
four hogsheads of aquavitæ. How all was settled does
not appear. There were other claims; and mention is
made of £3,615 : 14 : 4, part of a sum due from the
Government to Sir Thomas. While the accounts were
under discussion Sir Thomas again got into strife with
the Admiralty. He estimated the crews for his two
ships, the fifth and ninth whelps, at eighty and seventy
men, at 8*d.* per day, whereas "my Lords" will allow but
sixty at 6*d.*; nor will they grant him, personally, above
5*s.* per day. Further, in February 1631, while he advises
"6 murderers" and a couple of "brass minions or light
sakers, with every thing necessary for a fight with
stronger enemies," the Admiralty will allow but "two
murderers" for each ship, and direct two of the demi-
cannon to be exchanged for light culverins.

1 April, Sir Thomas, while captain of the ninth whelp, is ordered to take charge, as admiral, of the fifth and ninth, and to repair to the coast of Ireland, St. George's Channel, and the Severn, for the defence of traders, and especially of "such as use to trade to the fairs at Bristol at St. Jamess and St. Pauls tide." He is to ply between Scilly, Cape Clear, and Milford, with Kinsale for his rendezvous. He put his nephew, Capt. Thomas, into the ninth whelp.

While waiting for a wind, he wrote to ask Lord Dorchester to move the king to allow the monies due to himself and his sister Whoick, in the Court of Wards.

5 May, he dropped down the Channel from King Road, "within 5 miles of his own house," but with no time to stop, as he has to see to the Biscayners and Dunkirkers about the mouth of the Severn and the Land's End. While on his course to Milford, the fifth whelp was detained at Penarth, by a change of wind, for fourteen days.

Since the above was put in type a new volume of the *Calendar of the Domestic State Papers* has appeared, making reference to many more of the admiral's letters: these it will be necessary to examine, and their contents will be made the subject of a short additional notice.

ST. LYTHAN'S.

The parish of St. Lythan, called in the *Llandaff Book* Elidon, takes, like Llanblethian, its name from Bp. Bleiddyn (Lupus). It belongs to the same divisions, judicial, fiscal and ecclesiastical, with St. Nicholas, and of it there is not much to be said. It caps the west and southern sides of St. Nicholas, and is itself contained between that parish and Wenvoe, excepting at its south-western portion, where it touches Llancarvan. It measures from north-east to south-west about two miles and a quarter, and from north-west to south-east about half

a mile, and it contains 1,248 : 2 : 30 statute acres. Part of the village of Dyffryn-Golych stands within it, and more than the eastern half of the Dyffryn demesne, including the house.

It is traversed by the Dyffryn Brook, upon which stand the house and mill of Hampton, or Hamston fach, and, lower down, the farm of Hamston fawr. Besides these places may be mentioned Llanpran and Maes-y-felin. St. Lythan's Down, now under sentence of enclosure, is in Wenvoe parish.

Although St. Lythan's has not the advantage of a turnpike road, or other great thoroughfare, its population, on the whole, has been slowly increasing. In 1801 it numbered 72 inhabitants, and 84 in 1811. These, in 1821, were 108; and in 1831 there were 17 houses and 103 people. In 1841 these were 24 and 110; and in 1851, houses 27, and persons 135. At the census of 1861, the males were 68, females 67,—total, 135.

According to the *Liber Landavensis*, King Ithael, son of Athrwys, riding across the land of Guocof (guessed to be Wenvoe), his horse stumbled, and he was thrown. With a gratitude perhaps slightly heightened by the badness of his horsemanship, he, while rising, vowed the church of Elidon, then before him, with the land and village of Guocof, to Almighty God, as represented by the church of Llandaff. As usual with this book, the boundaries, though minutely set forth, are not now to be identified, the very names being gone. These are the spring of Gurunni, the dingle of Cui, the Carn, Blaen-Pant-Golych, Lotre Elidon, Powisva Dewi, and Carn-Ynis-Tair-Erw. (*L. Land.*, p. 401.)

In a later grant, in the same book, King Meurig ap Hywel, being excommunicate and repentant, restored to the church the village of Tref-Golych, which the context shews to be St. Lythan's, and which had been resumed. With it he gave three modii (about twenty-seven acres) of land. The places named as boundaries are, Powisva, the Mound, the Stone, Carn-Gistlerth, Carn-Guocof, the Gurunni, the Gulich, Carn-Tair-Erw,

and Powisva-Dewi. [Ibid., 527.] The carns and the mound have disappeared, but were not improbably the casing of the cromlechs.

The geological features of St. Lythan resemble those of St. Nicholas. The mountain limestone rises on the north and east, dipping steeply to the south-west, where it is covered up with patches of magnesian conglomerate and red marle, which in their turn give way to the broad expanse of the lias.

The CHURCH, generally supposed to be dedicated to St. Lupus, is a small structure, recently repaired in excellent taste by a happy combination between the squire and the vicar. The *tower* is small, low, square, with a packsaddle roof and a bell. The *nave* is small and plain, without aisles, and with a south porch. It contains a good, plain, cylindrical Norman font, with chevron mouldings. The *chancel*, also small, has a good, new E. Decorated east window.

On the south side of the chancel, opening from it by some rude openings in a very thick wall, is the Button chapel. This is a late Tudor addition with flat-topped windows and a north-west door, the head of which is four-centred, beneath a flat label, and in the spandrels the letters R. B. [Robert Button], and a defaced coat of arms. The Buttons are buried below; but neither here nor in the church are there any inscriptions worthy of record.

The Communion vessels are of the ordinary character; one piece is inscribed "Sancte Lythane, 1777." The dates of the registers are, of baptisms, A.D. 1750; burials, 1749; marriages, 1748.

The patron is, and always has been, the Archdeacon of Llandaff.

Vicars.—This list is, as usual in this county, very imperfect:

Thomas Maddocks. "He had a great family, and," when ejected by the Parliament, "was with much difficulty allowed the fifths to support them for some years; but at length they were detained from him. He out-

lived the usurpation, and enjoyed the whole for some years." (Walker.)

John Powell, A.M., was probably put in on the removal of Maddocks. He was ejected, 1660, for refusing to bury a gentleman's son with the liturgy. Dr. Lloyd offered him choice of two places if he would conform, which he could not do. He continued to preach at Newport and about the country, and suffered much. He was a meek, self-denying man, and a very affectionate preacher. He died 30 April, 1691. "Some of his children inherited a blessing." (Palmer, iii, 503.)

Robert Jones.

John Miles, presented Sept. 1700, on the death of Jones, by the celebrated Bp. Bull, then archdeacon, under the nomination of Sancroft.

William Miles, March 1720, on resignation of John Miles, by Archdeacon Watts.

William Price.

John Stephens, 11 Dec. 1742, on death of Price, by Archdeacon John Evans. Instituted 16 Dec. 1742.

William Price.

Richard Bethel, M.A., 21 Dec. 1770, on death of Price, by Archdeacon John Fulham. Instituted 7 Feb. 1771 (O. S.)

Morgan Deere, M.A., 21 July, 1778, on death of Bethel, by Archdeacon Dr. W. Adams.

Richard Deere.

E. Windsor Richards.

William Bruce, M.A., 1848, by J. Bruce Pryce, present vicar.

The benefice is a discharged vicarage, endowed with the great tithes. It stands, in the king's books, at £6 : 1 : 3, represented in the *Liber Regis* as £42 clear value, and now by a commuted rent-charge of £145 : 10. There is a vicarage house with 41 : 0 : 9 acres of glebe.

In Pope Nicholas's taxation, 1288-91, "*Ecclesia de Sancto Lychano*" stands at £5 per ann.; and in the *Valor* of H. VIII as follows:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In primis garb.	3	0	0			
Terr. dominical.	1	6	6			
Case	0	13	4			
Case oblat.	2	0	0			
Vitul	0	5	0			
Tres oblat.	0	2	0			
Fenum, canab. cum aliis	0	3	0			
				7	9	10
Episcopo et archidiacon.				1	8	8
				£6	1	2
Decima inde				0	12	1

Rates.

In 1776 the poor rate was	£8	3	6
„ church rate	5	18	0
In 1860, poor rate	64	12	0
„ road rate	25	8	0
„ church rate	7	0	0

In 1855, the valuation of the parish for the county rate was £1,078.

There is a bequest of £10 by Mr. Thos. Williams, vested in the vicar, churchwardens, and overseers, the interest of which is for the benefit of the industrious poor.

St. Lythan's sends one guardian to the Cardiff Union.

Formerly a fair was held in this parish, 21 August, near Dyffryn village. It was one of the largest in the county, and was removed into St. Nicholas about 1780.

There is a tradition of a chapel near "Bailey Manor" farmhouse, and a headstone was found in the garden about twenty years ago.

The names most common in the parish are combinations of the simple elements of Jones, Williams, and Thomas. Pranch is quite a name of distinction.

The cromlech has been described under St. Nicholas. The manor of Worlton is reputed to be coextensive with the parish, and sometimes to have borne its name.

In 1288-90, "Episcopus de Landav. habet apud Worlton, Lose, et Martel-mawr, 2 carucatas terræ, que valent p^r an^m, deductis neciis, £2:13:4." This pro-

perty has long been alienated. A sum of £6, annually paid to the bishop by the lord of the manor, seems to be the rent reserved under an alienation of lands by Bishop Kitchen in favour of one of the Button family. [Cole MSS. in Mus. Brit., 64.]

The Buttons probably obtained the manor with St. Nicholas. Its value in the last century was £167 : 4 : 3, which included chief rents from Sir Edmd. Thomas, for Kempston and Goldland, 6*d.* ; from Thomas William for Tyrydilal, 5*d.* ; from Jesus Coll., Oxon., for Lidmore, 9*d.*

The principal land owners are Mr. Bruce Pryce and Mr. Jenner.

G. T. C.

R. O. J.

1862.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BRITISH SETTLEMENT CALLED GREAVES ASH,

IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

*Extracted from a paper by GEO. TATE, Esq., F.G.S., contained in the
"Proceedings of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club," iv, p. 293.*

FAR up in the range of Cheviot Hills, in Northumberland, an old British town exists, now called Greaves Ash. It is situated upon an elevated platform of somewhat level and rocky ground, on the southern slope of Greenshaw Hill. Although high on the hills, the site is tolerably sheltered, and at the same time commands an extensive view over the country.

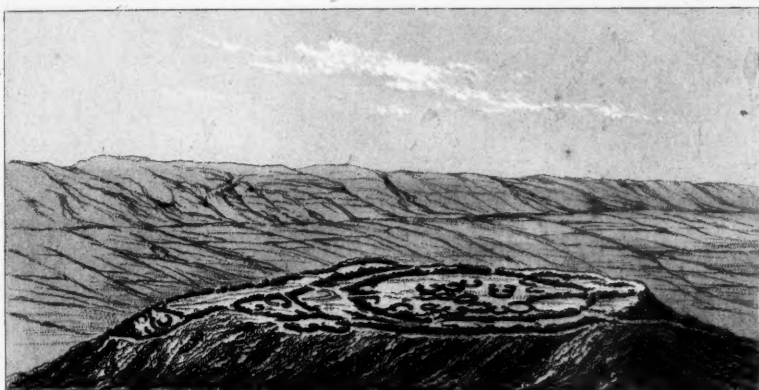
It consists of three principal parts, the arrangement of which, and their contents, is shewn by the plan. A is the largest, and is connected directly with B, and communicated by a road and rampart with C. It doubtless formed one settlement, and had several enclosures of considerable extent on the lower ground beneath the outer rampart. Taken all together, there is an area of about twenty acres covered with the ruins. Traces of very ancient cultivation abound in its near neighbourhood. All the walls are built of the porphyry rock of the district. No cement, nor even clay, was used ; nor

is there any trace of a tool visible. There was no difficulty in obtaining fit stones, for the rock is jointed and fissured in all directions. Unfortunately the walls have been used as a quarry, and modern fences and houses built with their stones. This is the common fate of such works.

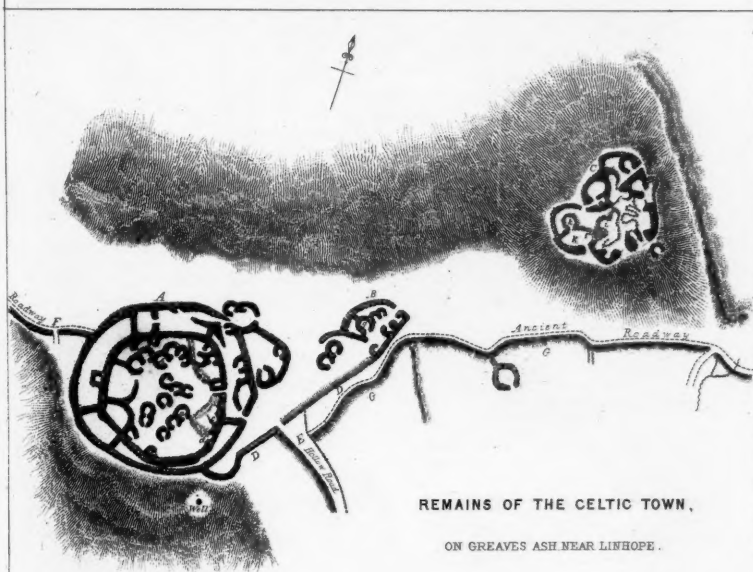
It will be observed that the interior of these forts is very fully occupied by the foundations of circular houses combined in groups; the whole being surrounded, in the case of the larger enclosure, by two walls. Of these walls, the outer is much the stronger,—its thickness varies from ten to twelve feet; the inner is from five to seven feet thick. Before the excavations were commenced only one course of stones appeared above the surface of the ground; but the removal of the earth which had accumulated, revealed three or four courses. These walls are formed of unhewn masses of porphyry of various sizes and shapes, the outer ones very large, and carefully fitted together; those in the interior much smaller. Long and very large blocks are here and there set upright in the wall; and sometimes courses of stones are built across its breadth in a very careful manner. In this way the whole wall was tied together, and acquired considerable strength.

It is desirable that the walls of Tre'r Ceiri should be again carefully examined, to ascertain if any such contrivances exist in them. The works are so similar that we have reason to expect them to correspond in this also. I can have no doubt of the work at Greaves Ash and that at Tre'r Ceiri having been built by people of the same nation. They differ materially from the buildings found in Cornwall, and described by Mr. Edmonds (*A. C.*, Ser. III, iv), and from that constituting the remains of the city of Faham, in the county of Kerry, which is admirably illustrated by M. Du Noyer (*Archæol. Journ.*, xv).

But to return to Greaves Ash. It will be observed that there is usually a considerable interval between the two enclosing walls of A, amounting in most parts to



THE OLD CELTIC TOWN, GREAVES ASH, LINHOPE, NORTH.
GENERAL VIEW OF THE WESTERN AND EASTERN FORTS, FROM GREENSHAW HILL.





fifty feet; also that there are a few of the hut-circles between the walls; but that in general it is divided into spaces resembling (and, perhaps, having been) cattle-pens. These cross-walls are stated to be certainly coeval with the outer rampart, for they are built continuously through it. On the south side the intermural space is greatly reduced; and, what is very remarkable, a third wall is placed between the other two, near to the outer and very close to the inner wall. The spaces between it and the other walls were filled with smaller stones. It appears that this singular part of the defences runs along the edge of a steep declivity. Eighteen hut-circles are certainly to be seen in A, and there are apparently traces of several others. The huts were quite circular, and from eleven to twenty-seven feet in diameter; usually their size was sixteen to twenty feet. Their walls are like the ramparts: the large stones are carefully fitted to each other, and the middle of the wall is filled up with smaller stones and earth.

Some of the huts have been carefully examined. That marked *a* on the plate is twenty feet in diameter; its wall thirty inches in thickness; entrance, five feet and a half wide, and roughly flagged with flat stones. One row of these flagstones is laid across the width of the doorway, at a level of three inches and a half higher than the floor. Mr. Tate believes that a door, opening inwards, was shut against this step. It is observed in many of the huts at Greaves Ash, and also at a place called Chesters in the same neighbourhood. The flagging does not cover the whole of the interior of the hut: it extends seven feet inwards from the door, and also goes all round the sides with a breadth of two to four feet. The central part is lower, and roughly paved with small stones.

The hut (A) is twenty-seven feet in diameter; is flagged from wall to wall, for sixteen feet, from the door; and the remainder is rudely paved.

It will be noticed that some of the huts are intimately connected with the ramparts. One by the gate is stated to have an entrance from the gateway.

From the hut marked *g*, a small passage, resembling a drain, passes out from a little below the level of the floor through the inner rampart. It is formed of three stones, is fourteen inches wide at the bottom, and ten at the top, and twelve inches high. From charred wood being found in considerable quantity in the passage and in the hut itself, Mr. Tate supposes that this was a chimney. It seems much more probably to have been a drain.

There is only one road through the inner rampart, by a gateway eight feet and a half broad, bounded by large blocks very carefully placed; some in an upright position. The chief way through the outer rampart is placed diagonally to this gate, and about thirty yards to the south of it. There is another way through this outer wall, at some distance towards the north. It will be observed that this latter entrance is rendered exceedingly strong by an outwork, and a curious triangular mass of masonry interposed between the walls.

Fort *A* is connected with fort *B* by the long rampart (*D*), in which there is a gateway leading to the hollow way (*E*) which formed the chief approach to the place. It is stated to be probable that much more of the space between *A* and *B* is occupied with hut-circles than is delineated on the plan, the rank growth of fern rendering it difficult to detect them all in the summer season.

The hut marked *g*, in fort *B*, is stated to be twenty feet in diameter; built of very large stones; flagged for seven feet from the entrance towards the centre, and the remainder of its floor rudely paved. The walls and rampart of *B* are formed of larger blocks than those used in *A*. Some stones are from two to four feet in length.

The fort *C* is placed on a high shoulder of the hill, at a little distance from the others. It is much more irregular than *A*. Its whole interior is occupied by hut-circles, oval enclosures, trackways, and walls. There are also hollows, like what are now called rifle-pits, from which the earth and stones seem to have been taken to

strengthen the defences. That marked κ is even now eight feet lower than the top of the wall. We may here ask, if the real use of these hollows was to supply material to add to the walls, why were they excavated within rather than without the walls? Surely there must have been some other good reason for their formation.

Rude steps were found forming the mode of ascent from κ to the hut marked k . The only stone not consisting of the porphyry of the district, was found used as a flagstone in the floor of i . It is of sandstone, from another part of the county, and formed part of a well made quern.

There are no wells nor springs in the town itself, but a brook, called now Linhope Burn, is not far from A and B , and the way to it was strongly defended. There is a streamlet in a ravine at a short distance to the east of C . There are also two springs closely adjoining the town; one of them is marked at the eastern edge of the plan, where a passage through the long wall was left to afford access to it.

The road marked ϵ was the main approach. It can be traced from the brook at the foot of the hill to the gate, but has not been found on the other side of this brook called the Breamish. It is hollowed to the depth of two or three feet, and defended by a mound upon each side. A road, F , runs westward to the Linhope Burn, and is protected by a stone wall, which is shown to be coeval with the outer rampart by being built through it, like the dividing walls already noticed. There is yet a third road, G , similarly defended, extending from near the upper end of the Hollow Road along the side of the hill in front of the fort, C .

It is stated that the country towards the north from Greaves Ash consists of high and bleak mountains, and that towards the south the elevations on the other side of the Breamish are occupied by forts and hut-circles and entrenchments. Mr. Tate justly deduces from this the apparent fact that the people of Greaves Ash were

of a distinct clan from those living towards the south, and had therefore to fortify themselves against their neighbours. The nation was divided into hostile clans in the way that was so characteristic of early nations, especially of the Celts.

The place mentioned above as Chesters is about two miles from Greaves Ash. It is similar in structure, but somewhat ruder. A "*flint weapon*" was found there at a depth of three feet near the gateway. Also in one of the hut-circles a *green glass bead* and a quern.

Traces of fires were noticed in many of the huts at Greaves Ash. Pieces of pottery of the very rudest kind, formed of clay, out of which even pebbles had not been removed, were found in many spots. It is imperfectly burned, often three quarters of an inch thick, without any ornament, and fashioned by hand, for there are no traces of the lathe. The pieces found were all small, but some of them seemed to have formed parts of rather large vessels. Some also bore manifest traces of having been used for cooking purposes. This rude pottery is very like that which has been found in "Celtic" graves in Northumberland; but the latter bears some slight ornamental scoring, which is wanting on these domestic vessels.

A fragment of a translucent glass armlet was found at Greaves Ash. Such armlets are very rare; two are stated to be preserved in the collection of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries.

It is remarkable that exceedingly few implements have been found. That of flint, already mentioned, and two small fragments of stone, seem to complete the list. This single example is injured at the point. It is of the usual form, about three inches long by an inch and a half broad, flat on one side and forming a slight ridge on the other.

Horns of the red deer and slight remains of the horse occurred. Three broken querns, all bottom stones, were found at Greaves Ash; and an upper and under stone at Chesters. The date of querns always

admits of doubt, from the long series of ages through which they seem to have been used without material alteration in shape. One at least of these must be ancient, for it formed part of the pavement of a hut-circle, and must therefore have been disused as a mill-stone before the hut ceased to be a habitation of man.

It is Mr. Tate's opinion that at Greaves Ash there is no trace of occupation by any except the original tribe who were its builders; but that in other places in that neighbourhood, such as the Chesters referred to, there are evident signs of successive occupation by people of different habits and civilization. He considers Greaves Ash similar to Carn Brea, Worle, and Chysauster. I have no copy of Sir G. Wilkinson's able paper on the first of these places to refer to, but, if my memory is to be trusted, it contains no groups of huts like those of Greaves Ash; neither are any such to be found at Worle nor Chysauster. I have already mentioned the more near resemblance to Tre'r Ceiri of Greaves Ash, but the former is by far the more extensive and interesting ruin.

It will be remarked that no traces of the use of metal were found; probably this is a town belonging strictly to the stone period, and therefore perhaps anterior to the arrival of the Gael, still more of the Cymry, in Britain. It has been supposed that the Gael brought with them a knowledge of bronze, and the Cymry perhaps that of iron. It may not improbably have been the Gael, who destroyed the lake habitations of the earliest stone-using people of Switzerland, and introduced bronze there. Can it have been they also that displaced the raisers of the megalithic structures, such as circles and cromlechs, in Britain? for, whatever the Gael may have known about them, we usually (always?) find that the Welsh traditions concerning those buildings are mythical, not historic; that ages ago the Cymry knew nothing about their use and origin, but in common with their Anglian successors considered them as magical or unaccountable. All we

learn of such works in these and other countries seems to render it more and more probable that they were erected by a people ignorant of metal. Although there can be no doubt that stone weapons were used at a much later date than that of the introduction of bronze, yet the acquisition of a knowledge of metal must have formed a great event in history, and in all probability (as is shown by Troyon to have happened in Switzerland) marks the arrival of a more civilized tribe in Western Europe.

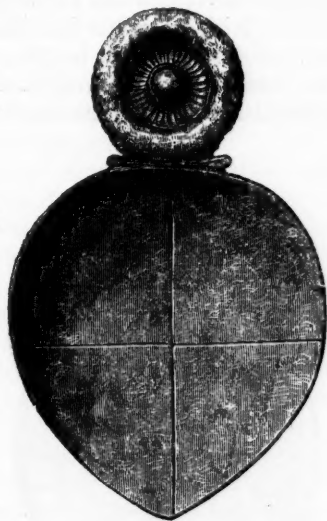
C. C. B.

BRONZE ARTICLES SUPPOSED TO BE SPOONS.

DURING the autumn of 1861, Mr. Hugh Jones of Cae-Groes, near Ruthin, while walking along the line of the railway now being made between Denbigh and Corwen, discovered, among the rubbish thrown up by the excavators, two bronze implements, firmly attached face to face by the incrustation of the metal. How long they had been lying there, is not certain, since the workmen in throwing up the sand out of the cutting appear to have taken no notice of them. For the same reason it is impossible to say whether they were found near the surface or not, or even to fix upon the exact spot whence they had been thrown, and subsequently covered up. The superincumbent soil appears to have been washed away by heavy rains which fell about that time, and exposed them, slightly projecting above the rubbish. They thus attracted the attention of this gentleman, who kindly presented them to me. The place where they were thus found is south of Ffynogion, in Llanfair parish. Mr. Jones had some difficulty in separating them without injury. Although one of them has lost a small portion of its bowl, the fracture is evidently an old one, presenting the same appearance as the unfractured part.

Prior to this discovery only six articles of the same kind were, it is believed, known to exist; of these the Royal Irish Academy possessed four, forming two pairs, —all, it is understood, found in Ireland. The British Museum has the fifth, formerly in the collection of Mr. Roach Smith, represented in his *Collectanea*. The remaining specimen is in possession of Mr. Albert Way. The former of these is said to have been found in the bed of the Thames; the latter in London.

The cut here given represents one of the pair found at Llanfair, with its fractured part restored. It exhibits a much more simple character of ornament than those which follow.



Both these specimens are from the same mould, and of the same metal, bronze, containing a larger amount of copper than is usually found, as far as can be conjectured from the colour. They are coated over with a green oxide, which does not, however, extend beyond the surface; and which, therefore, can hardly be called the patina, so precious in numismatic eyes. One only

has a plain cross, composed of lines, or rather deep scratches, made posterior to their issuing from the mould. If intended for the purpose of consecration, one might have expected a little more care bestowed upon their execution. Neither of them has the small perforation at the margin, found in the English and Irish specimens, although it is possible that it may have existed in the part broken away in one; and which is the very place in which it would have existed, if we may judge from the instruments that are perforated. In these latter instances the hole appears to have been made in the casting. It is observable, moreover, that the perforated specimens in the British Museum and the collection of Mr. Way want the rude cross, while the unperforated example in one of the Irish pairs has it. The dimensions of those under consideration are, length, three inches, exclusive of the handle, which is an inch and a quarter. Their greatest breadth measures two inches and a half.



The specimen in the British Museum is a much finer example. It is not only larger and more massive,

but more ornamented, especially as regards the handle, while the margin is finished in considerable relief. It is composed of a fine yellow bronze, similar to that in Mr. Way's possession, and it has the peculiar appearance of antiquities in that metal found in the Thames. The edges of the bowl are turned up and rounded, either for ornament or more securely retaining the contents, which, from the hole, must have been liquid. It is possible, indeed, that this raised rim might have been intended to guard against spilling over the sides; though it is more likely that it is merely an ornamental finish, and not intended for any particular purpose. The circular depression in the handle is very deep; much more so than in the Welsh or Irish specimens. Mr. Franks ascribes this example to a late Celtic period. Its dimensions are as follows: length, four inches and a half; width of handle, three inches; length of bowl, including its rim, three inches and a quarter; width, two inches and three-quarters.

The following woodcuts (two-thirds orig. size) accurately represent the example in Mr. Way's possession, to whom the Association is much indebted for the use of the blocks. This specimen was obtained by him in London, and stated to have been found, in April 1852, in Brick-hill-lane, Upper Thames-street. It is of pale-coloured bronze, similar to the metal not unfrequently noticed amongst Irish antiquities. The handle appears to have been partially disunited from the shallow bowl of the spoon; and the injury has been carefully repaired by a plate, somewhat ornamentally formed, affixed at the back, in which are introduced small spiral ornaments, and of peculiarly combined curves,—a type of ornamentation to be noticed on the reverse of the handle, and exemplified by the bronze relics found at Polden Hill, Somerset, Stanwick, Yorkshire, with other objects now in the British Museum. (See also *Archæologia*, xiv, p. 90.) This peculiar mode of ornamentation is also observable on antiquities of bronze found in Ireland and Scotland, and has been considered as characterizing

certain relics belonging to the latest period of the Celtic population of Britain. (See Mr. Franks' remarks, *Proceedings* of the Society of Antiquaries, iv, p. 144.) The spoon-fashioned object communicated by Mr. Way has the perforation at the margin; a small portion of the



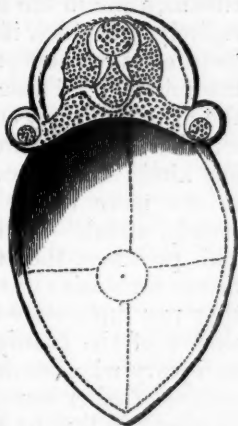
edge having, however, been broken off. It deserves notice, that, where this perforation occurs, it is uniformly on the right hand margin; a circumstance worthy of consideration in the endeavour to assign a purpose to these remarkable relics.

For the following cut the Association is indebted to the kindness of Dr. Wilde and the Council of the Royal Irish Academy, who have lent it for the purpose of illustrating the present notice. It is drawn half the actual size. This specimen, though differing in some respects from those in the British Museum, and the specimen belonging to Mr. Way, bears too general a resemblance to refer it to a different date. There is the same kind of rude cross as in the Welsh one, except

that the four arms project from a small central circle. They appear from the illustration to be incised, as well as the dotted line parallel to the edge of the bowl. A fuller notice, however, it is hoped, will appear in the continuation of Dr. Wilde's admirable catalogue of the collection of the Irish Academy.

It is remarkable that although the Academy possesses two pairs of these spoons,—for such they may be called until more is known about them,—these pairs are not exactly fellows to each other, or cast from the same moulds, as in the case of the Llanfair ones. The fellow of the one here illustrated has, indeed, the same kind of cross, but a different pattern on the handle. Only one also of each pair has the perforation; and if this is to be considered the rule, those of Mr. Way and the British Museum must be considered as odd portions of two pairs. The smaller pair in the museum of the Academy, of which the illustration gives one, is covered with a bright, polished, green patina; though how far the colouring extends into the metal, we are not aware. The other pair is longer and narrower, and five inches and a half long. Although of bronze, they are of a brown rusty colour.

It is easy enough to describe in general outline the principal features of these articles, but it is by no means so easy to explain satisfactorily their use and intentions. Mr. Clibborn suggested that they were used in administering the wafer at the Communion; but in this case what purpose could the small hole have been intended to discharge? or why should they be found in pairs? Nor, as Mr. Way has observed, is it likely that, if intended for such purpose, they would be devoid of all emblematic ornament; for the rude incised crosses can hardly be



termed ornamental as regards the Welsh and Irish specimens, while in the English ones even these are wanting entirely. Besides, if Mr. Franks is correct in his conjectures as to their probable date, such an hypothesis is inadmissible. Those who are better acquainted with the history of early ecclesiastical customs may inform us whether the wafer was ever administered in a spoon of any kind; and if so, whether such articles—especially in the more valuable, and for such a purpose more seemly, metals—are known to exist, or to have existed. The presence, therefore, of the rude crosses is by no means conclusive as to their ecclesiastical nature, though they may indicate a Christian character. A very rude sketch of the Llanfair examples was sent to a Breton antiquary who has devoted much attention to the antiquities of other countries as well as his own. He stated in his reply that he had never heard and seen anything like it, and was at a loss as to their use and nature. He thought, indeed, he saw some resemblance to the "*coquilles de St. Jacques*," and that they might possibly have been pilgrims' badges, or even ancient implements for skimming milk, the actual shell being still used by Breton dairymaids for that purpose in remote districts of his country; but he had not then seen the representations of the English and Irish specimens,—for even if the Welsh examples could be thought adapted for that purpose, that in the Museum, with its turned-up edges and orifice, would have been remarkably ill adapted. As to the pilgrim-badge theory, or rather conjecture, no convenient means, by eyelets or otherwise, existed for attaching them to hats or cloaks; and the motive of form is rather a leaf than a shell, as is particularly evident from a reference to the cut of the Museum specimen.

Since the above observations were in the printer's hands, Mr. Franks has accidentally discovered another pair of these spoon-shaped articles in the Ashmolean Museum, where they had been lying unnoticed since the year 1836, when they were presented by the Rev.

Henry Jenkins of Magdalen College, and now Rector of Stanway in Essex. It appears from this gentleman's statement, that, about the year 1829, the tenant removed a heap of stones in a part of Castell Nadolig, in the parish of Pembryn, near Cardigan, which was considered by that gentlemen to have been the prætorium. Under these stones were discovered the so-called spoons; but whether, at the same time, any other remains were found, Mr. Jenkins is not aware. If the then tenant is still alive, our local secretary, who resides in Cardigan, can easily ascertain whether anything else at that time came to light.

Castell Nadolig, or Castle Christmas (a remarkable appellation for such a work), is contiguous to the main road from Cardigan to Aberystwyth, and was visited by the Association in 1859. Between it and the sea, which is at no great distance, and on the same line, are the remarkable incised stone noticed in Camden and Meyrick (and the *Arch. Camb.*, 1861, p. 305), and a small square camp close to the edge of the shore; which camp is evidently connected with the larger work of Castell Nadolig. The road running by this last mentioned work is known as the Sarn,—a term generally supposed to indicate a Roman road, though in portions of North Wales it is thought to apply frequently to any ancient tracks. The earthworks, moreover, of Castell Nadolig present several peculiarities not usually found in Roman camps; yet from its position, as pointed out by Mr. Babington on the spot, effectually commanding the line of communication from north to south; and, taken in connexion with the square encampment close to the sea, there can be little doubt that, even if not originally formed, it was at least occupied, by the Romans. Those members who were fortunate enough in sharing in that most agreeable excursion, will remember seeing in a part of the work a large stone slab, under which, a short time before, three urns containing bones had been found; near which spot also were, at the time of the visit, seen a considerable number of calcined bones lying

about. At no great distance also, and in the same parish, was found the aureus of Titus, now in the possession of our local secretary, R. D. Jenkins, Esq., of Cardigan. Between this work and the smaller camp stands the incised stone already mentioned, on the spot where, about one hundred years ago, stood a windmill built on a small tumulus. At that time it was lying near the windmill, then in the possession of the grandfather of the present owner, the Rev. Henry Jenkins. The windmill being in a very dilapidated condition, the grandfather determined to pull it down, and to level the tumulus; during which operation a sepulchral urn was discovered, in the absence of the then owner, who had gone to his dinner. The men, taking advantage of this circumstance, and thinking, as usual, that it contained something very precious, broke it to pieces. The stone was then put in its present upright position on the site of the tumulus. There can be little doubt but that this stone had originally been placed on the summit of the tumulus, as in the case of the Emlyn stone, removed to Lord Bagot's residence, Pool Park, in the vicinity, for protection. This, with another stone uninscribed, stood on the summit of the raised ground, surrounded with a trench called Bedd Emlyn (see *Arch. Camb.*, 1855, p. 116). As the tumulus of Dyffryn Bern was considered a desirable site for a windmill, the stone or stones (if more than one) must have been found inconvenient, and therefore removed on one side until reerected on the place where the tumulus had stood.

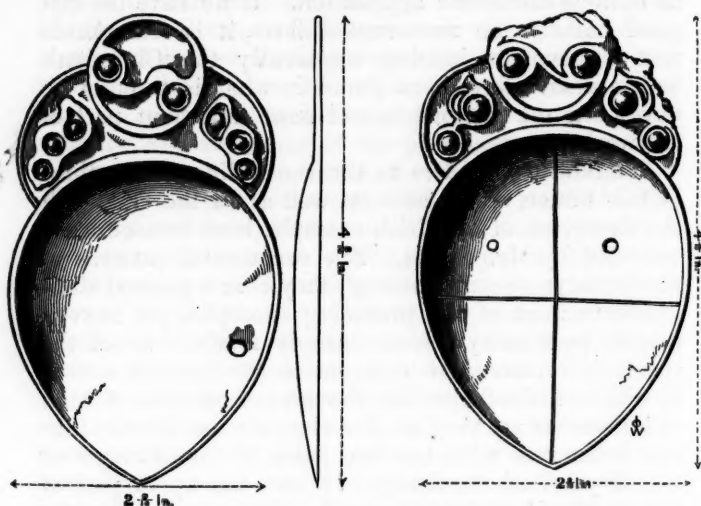
At a short distance from the stone, and in the same line with Castell Nadolig, is the small square enclosure not visited by the excursionists from want of time; but which, standing near the edge of the cliffs, commands that part of the coast still called Llongborth, where tradition tells us that Roman ships were accustomed to resort. Just below this work, in the rocks overlooking the sea, is a remarkably pure spring of water, which never fails during the driest summer.

These various circumstances confirm the popular be-

lief that Castell Nadolig was at least occupied by the Romans. No explanation, however, has been given of its curious distinctive appellation. If we have the original name in an uncorrupted form, it is remarkable that implements bearing apparently the Christian's badge should have been found in what is thought to have been the prætorium, and most important part of the work.

We refer our readers to the concluding illustrations of this notice, which have, as well as all the rest, with the exception of the Irish example, been so accurately executed by Mr. Utting. The ornamental patterns of the Penbryn spoons, although they bear a general similitude to most of the preceding examples, yet have a certain peculiarity which strongly reminds us of the spectacle ornament so common on the Scottish stones. It will be noticed also that though the patterns of each of the spoons are very similar, they are not identical, as also is the case with the two pairs in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. In one, the upper part of the handle is slightly damaged. The greatest lengths and breadths are a little under five and three inches. Like the Llanfair ones they are coated with a green oxyde, but unlike them, are composed of an orange yellow metal. As in the Irish pair, only one of them has the usual hole in the right margin, although in the other two small apertures have once existed, but have been filled up with a brass plug. The cross, as in the Irish examples, exists only in that one which has the usual hole, a fact corroborated to a certain extent by the single specimen of Mr. Way and the museum, which are no doubt the remaining portions of pairs. But this rule does not apply in the Llanfair pair, for the damaged one which might have had the aperture has the cross. With this exception, it would seem that the cross and the small perforation are never on the same spoon-shaped article. The plugged-up holes in one of the Pembryn ones are somewhat anomalous and difficult to explain.

How far these rude crosses must be taken to indicate a Christian character is, as already stated, uncertain. If



they are to be considered as such, these articles must be among the earliest Christian monuments of these islands; and if it be also conceded that there was a Christian Ireland at the time when Paganism, and perhaps a debased Druidism, prevailed in England and Wales (for that Wales, at least, was christianized, or rather rechristianized, by Irish missionaries, is generally admitted by the best authorities), we may, perhaps, look upon them as of Irish origin.

Mr. Way remarks on the similarity of the bronze of his specimen to many of the Irish bronzes, and even allowing the Roman character or occupation of Castell Nadolig, yet after the departure of the Roman legions, the Irish invaders, who have left so many of their oghamic monuments in this part of Wales, would naturally avail themselves of works so conveniently situated, as communicating with the sea, and commanding the principal passages from the north along the coast line. It is true

Llanfair is separated by an extensive region from the sea coast opposite Ireland, but it is hardly twenty miles from the Flintshire coast on the north, and probably somewhat less in early times, while on the other side it is little more than six or seven miles from Gwyddelwern, or the Irishman's marsh. It is not, however, quite so easy to surmise how the other two remaining specimens had travelled as far as London; but out of eight of the ten known examples four have been found in Ireland, and the other four may easily have found their way into North and South Wales from that country.

As to their probable date most persons will agree with Mr. Franks's opinion. In addition to the various examples of ornament mentioned by Mr. Way as similar to the patterns on these articles, may be mentioned the figures found in many of the stone monuments in Brittany, in which combinations of circles and curved lines occur most frequently. If this identity of ornamental device is satisfactorily made out, it would to a certain extent confirm the views of those who think that such ornamented stone monuments are also late Celtic, and the least ancient examples of sepulchral stone chambers.

The last and most difficult question is as to their object and use. Are they sacrificial? or domestic? Was one only intended for liquids? Time, and the discovery of similar implements in private and public, and especially continental collections, may perhaps one day clear up the mystery of these very spoon-like articles.

E. L. B.

EARLY INSCRIBED STONES OF WALES.

CAPEL BRITHDIR, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THIS stone, which was fully described by a learned writer in the last number of the *Journal*, has been visited by myself for the purpose of procuring for Mr. Stephens a more accurate sketch of it than he then possessed. It is a slab of the carboniferous sandstone, of which the hill it stands on is composed; and, from its hardness, it has borne the effects of weathering better than might have been expected from its exposed situation. It is in a field a little to the north-west of the poor little chapel of Brithdir, on the top of a steep ridge, or *cefn*, to the west of the valley of the Rhymny, near an old line of road prolonged northwards along the ridge, looking to the south-west towards Gelly Gaer. This position is not improbably its original one; but no remains of a cairn round the base of the stone indicate the presence of an interment. The stone now inclines greatly to westward, and ought to be set upright again, protected by an encircling wall. When this is done, the opportunity should be taken of excavating the ground beneath, and of ascertaining whether any traces of burial still exist. On no account should the stone be removed; it may be sufficiently protected by a proper enclosure.

The inscription is on the eastern face of the slab, and there are no oghamic marks whatever upon the edges. These, indeed, are rough and broken; and probably the stone has been injured by cattle rubbing themselves against it. Two or three of the letters are defaced, but on the whole the inscription is still easily legible.

Mr. Stephens has pointed out the absurd reading which had been given of it many years ago. This is a specimen of the manner in which, when palæography was not understood in this country (and even now, unfortunately, it is studied by too few), inscriptions were



HJ del

UTTING SO.

wrongly read; their supposed purport confidently asserted; and the most absurd theories built upon them. Welsh history and Welsh archæology, which were peculiarly exposed to this sinister influence, have suffered much from it, and still feel its baneful effects. A well known instance of this will be in the recollection of members,—that of the *ÆMILINVS* stone found on the hills, once thickly tenanted, between Ruthin and Cerrig y Drudion; for until that stone was actually visited by the Association, and a gutta percha cast taken of the letters, the inscription had been totally misread, and the reputations of several learned men compromised by the nonsense which they had promulgated concerning it.

The letters on this stone at Capel Brithdir are of a debased Roman character, passing into minuscules, and closely resembling those of the *CATAMANVS* inscription at Llangadwaladr in Anglesey. Whatever date Dr. Petrie assigns to that, may be accepted, within certain limits, as the same for this stone. The character used for A, which is thoroughly barbarous in form, is nearly the same on both stones; at least, the similarity is sufficient to lead to the supposition of contemporaneous execution. The letter R occurs twice in this inscription, and is also very debased, for it assumes the form, so widely different from the Roman type, which is found on other Welsh stones and in some MSS. down to as late a period as the thirteenth century. The letter M here takes the minuscule character; and N, with the cross-stroke intended to be horizontal, is also debased. The form of G is commonly met with on other Welsh stones, and it resembles that of the Fardel stone from Devonshire, but departs rather more widely from the original and normal character of that letter. There are two forms for S on this stone, not at all resembling each other: the first that occurs approaching the shape, which it is found retaining down to the tenth century; the second still preserving some trace of the old Roman type. Two letters were much injured, the first being

u, at the beginning of the third line, of which only the lower portion remains, the other being i, at the end of the same line, which, though certainly there, is so faint as to have almost led to a doubt in the critical mind of Mr. Stephens. The first e in the first line is defective at the lower part.

A peculiar squareness distinguishes the letters of this inscription, caused by the lamination of the stone, which would greatly hinder an unskilful sculptor from forming curves upon its surface. The inscription reads, as Mr. Stephens correctly gives it,—

TEGERNA
CUS FILI
US MARTI
HIC IACIT

It will be observed that, contrary to the analogy of many Welsh stones, the name of the principal personage is in the nominative case; and it will also be perceived that though the scribe has committed the common error of using IACIT for IACET, yet he has so far respected the orthography of the Roman tongue as not to have forgotten, like many other early sculptors, to spell HIC, the first word of the fourth line, correctly.

I am inclined to think that this stone may have been incised as late as the eighth century.

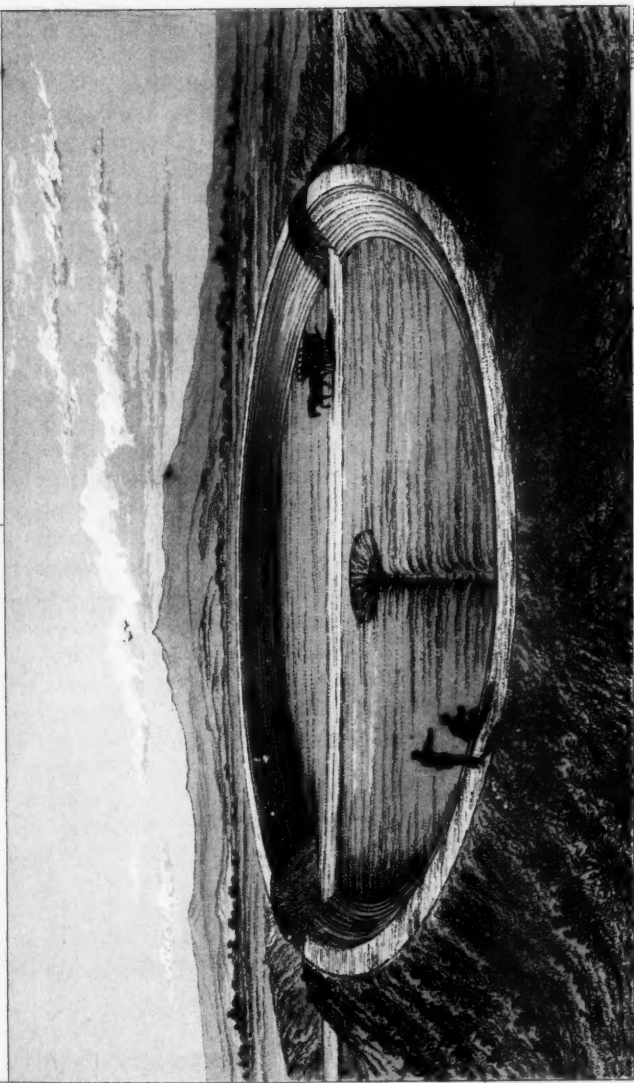
H. L. J.

ST. PIRAN'S ROUND, CORNWALL.

HAVING laid before members, at some length, accounts of the Cornish dramas edited by Mr. Norris, and of the poem of the Passion, in Cornish, by Mr. Whitley Stokes, we take an opportunity, before the visit of the Association to Cornwall, of adding a description of one of the Rounds, which, according to local tradition, is the most closely connected with the representation of those dramas. All over the western portion of Cornwall occur circular earthworks, which we are inclined to consider as, in most cases, military. Cornish antiquaries commonly attribute them to the Danes, or Sea-rovers, whoever they might have been; for in many instances they might have been Irish, or men even from other parts of the British isles; and there are analogies in Anglesey, as at Castell Ronan; in Cardiganshire, at Castell Caradoc; and in Pembrokeshire, in the Raths, etc., which would bear out this conjecture. But there are some which are considered exceptional in Cornwall, such as the Round at St. Just, the Round near Gwennap, and the Round of St. Piran, which are always stated to have been formed for the purpose of representing within them the Sacred Dramas. The Cornish name of *Plan an guare*, or "place of play," given to these remains, indicates the purpose for which they were traditionally supposed to have been made. That of St. Piran, being one of the most perfect, we have selected as a type; and we append an engraving of it, with a section and measurements, shewing its actual condition.

This Round is situated near Perranzabulo and the beautiful bay of Piran Porth. It has been constructed by digging a deep fosse, and throwing up the contents into a circular mound, the internal diameter of which is about one hundred and thirty-five feet. The inner slope bears the traces of seven rows of seats; and the

ST AGNES BEACON



ST. PIRAN'S ROUND, PERRANZABULO, CORNWALL



summit of the mound has been carefully levelled for standing room. Nearly in the middle occurs a circular pit, over which the temporary stage was erected; and here was the *Infernum* mentioned in the dramas. This pit had a trench running from it to the mound,—no doubt for purposes connected with the movements of the actors, etc. The mound, which is about ten feet high, is now much softened down by weather, and gorse bushes grow abundantly on the outside. A road has been driven right through the Round, and the whole has lost much of its original sharpness; though it is, otherwise, in tolerable preservation. Upon the seats of the mound, the summit, and the area of the circle, as many as two thousand persons could be accommodated; but the Round at Gwennap is much larger, and, it is said, will hold nearly *ten* times that number.

These Rounds, which have so long ceased to be used for dramatic purposes, are now resorted to by persons of various religious denominations for their annual meetings, etc. In one part of the Round of St. Piran a small excavation has been formed, which serves for a temporary pulpit; and from hence, at the meetings, discourses and harangues are made. In that at Gwennap, on account of its large dimensions, several discourses are delivered at the same time: but the Round of St. Just is incorporated with its village; and, though originally constructed with a good deal of stone, has been less fortunate in point of preservation.

It is possible that St. Piran's Round may have been a camp, afterwards used as a *plan an quare*; just as, after lying idle for centuries, it is now again used for popular religious purposes. The construction would bear out this supposition; and, until Cornish archives have been searched more thoroughly, we may look upon its origin as fairly an open question.

H. L. J.

BRONWYDD MSS.—LORDSHIPS OF WALES.

THE following is from the muniment room at Bronwydd, and is in the handwriting of Mr. George Owen, the antiquary, of Henllys.

These tips in Wales have changed theire old names, and are called after some cheefe townes or places of chefe tips :

Ross et Ryvoniog nowe called Denbigh.
 Dyffryn Cloyt nowe Ruthin.
 Moughnant }
 Kynlleth } nowe Chirke.
 Nanthedwy }
 Gwent ycha nowe Abergavenny.
 Strugwle or }
 Gwent yssa } nowe Chepstowe.
 Ross nowe Hav'fordwest.
 Pebidiock nowe Dewisland or St. David's.
 Melenyth nowe Radnor.
 Emlyn ysh Kych nowe Kilgarran.
 Emlyn ywch Kych nowe Newcastle.
 Gwenllwg nowe Newporte.
 Cantre bagh nowe Llanymthevery.
 Dyvett nowe Pembrokshere.
 Gwent Kenol nowe Monmouth.
 Maelor nowe Bromfield.
 Glynlwy the Haye.
 Abertaran now Laugharne.

These tips following keepe theire auncient names :

Glam'gan.	Mowthwy.
Powys.	Oswaldestrie.
Brecknocke.	Maelor S...ecke.
Gower.	Cawse.
Cameyse.	Penkelly.
Kidwely.	Blaenlyfyney.
Cloon.	Buallt.
Ewyas.	Cantrecoch.
Kery.	Dinas
Kedewen.	Llanstephan.
Arwstley.	Edeirnon.
Keviliog.	Doythwr.
Bromfield et Yale.	

Endorsed { Lordshippes m'chers in Wales out of the }
king's possession. A° xv. E. tertij. }

Glamorgan	.	.	.	zouch de m'tuomari.
Strogule	.	.	.	cōes Norfolk.
Monmouth			}	h. cōes Lancastr.
Kydwely & carnwillan				
Gower	.	.	.	Jo. Mowbrei.
Newport	.	.	}	Hugo de Audlei.
Usk	.	.		
Pembrok.	Cnst'.			
Hav'ford	.	.	.	R'ina Anglie.
Rose.	dns.			
Laugharne	.	.	.	Gui de Brian.
St. Dd. et Pebidiok	.	.	.	Epus Meneven'.
Tynbigh	.	.	.	W. de Clinton.
Kemes	.	.	}	J. de Audeley.
Llanymdyfri	.	.		
Bualt.	Cnst'.			
Breknock	.	.	.	Cōes Hereford.
Bulch Dinas	.	.	.	Gilbert Talbott.
Burgeveni.	Cnst'.			
Caer lion	.	.	.	Eliz. de burgo.
Melenith.	Cnst'.			
Radnor.	Cnst'.			
Vorthwinion.	Cnst'.			
Powys	.	.	.	Jo. Charlton.
Kedewenik.	D'no, Prin'.			
Denbigh	.	.	.	W. de Montecuto.
Broomfield & Yale	.	.	.	Jo. de Waren cōes Surrei.
Moghnannt	.	.	}	R. cōes Arundel. (This is called Chirkland.)
Kynlleth	.	.		
Nanthedwi	.	.	}	Rog. de Grei.
Dyffrin Cloyd	.	.		
Montgom'y	.	.	.	W. Fitzwaren constabularius.
Cloonne	.	.	.	Cōes Arundell.

Obituary.

THE DEAN OF BANGOR, the Very Rev. and amiable J. H. Cotton, LL.B., has been taken away from the scene of his labours—of his usefulness—and from ourselves, since the publication of our last number. The Dean joined this Association among the very first members; and the prominent part which he took at our first (the Aberystwith) meeting, along with Dr. Merewether, Dean of Hereford, and Sir Samuel R. Meyrick, will be in the remembrance of many members. It was owing to the impulse given at that meeting, when so many of the best friends of the Association were present, including, among living members, our first president, Sir Stephen R. Glynne, Lord Dungannon, and Mr. Wynne of Peniarth, that our Society immediately assumed the position which it has ever since retained.

The Dean of Bangor was a true friend of whatever could do good to his country generally, but specially to Wales. He was greatly in advance of his day, at a time when somnolency and respectability were nearly synonymous; and the activity, which he shewed as a young man, marked his long and beneficent career down to its very close. He was known more as an educationist and a parochial philanthropist than as an antiquary. Still his love for, and his knowledge of, antiquities were considerable; and he was a warm encourager of everything that could promote the study and preservation of National Remains. The Dean was no *sham* patron and friend; he was really active, gave a willing ear, and personally encouraged, as far as he could, all the labours of our Association. The loss of sight, under which he had suffered for several years, scarcely impaired his habitual cheerfulness; and, though he could not see what was done at the Bangor Meeting, he took much interest in it, and was quite up to the level of its proceedings.

Our old and tried friends are leaving us gradually: let us hope that their places are being filled by others, who will not be less true to the cause which we all have so much at heart.

CAMBRIAN ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

TRURO MEETING.

THE attention of members is called to the official programme of proceedings connected with the approaching meeting at Truro, circulated along with this number of the Journal. They will find in it all the details of excursions, evening meetings, etc., which are required; but if any further information is wanted, application should be made to the Secretaries of the Local Committee at Truro.

The selection of objects and places to be visited on the excursions, has been left entirely in the hands of the Local Com-

mittee; but members ought to be aware that, however judiciously the selection has been made, it is impossible for them to see more than the chief specimens of Cornish antiquities during the few days the meeting lasts. We strongly recommend members to remain in Cornwall after the meeting is over, and, *on their return from Scilly*, to explore the county for themselves. Visits to the Lizard district in the south-west, to Tintagel, to Launceston, and to Rough Tor, etc., in the north-east, will be found highly interesting; and those who are engaged in the investigation of early British remains, will do well to examine that part of Dartmoor in Devonshire which has lately been described in great detail, by Sir Gardner Wilkinson, in the *Journal* of the British Archæological Association. Archæologists should remember that Danmonian remains are closely akin to Cambrian; and they will find that few causes will promote the enlightened study of Welsh antiquities more thoroughly than a searching and scientific comparison of similar things in other countries. We look upon this as one of the most important objects to be secured by our visit to Cornwall,—the introduction and promotion of a scientific system of comparative archæology; and we should be glad to find the Association taking efficient steps for this purpose in conjunction with those antiquaries from Scotland, Ireland, and Brittany, whom we hope to meet at Truro.

Attention is particularly requested to the maps of Cornish antiquities issued by the Royal Institution of Cornwall on this occasion. They are reduced from the Ordnance Survey, and will be found highly useful. Such an example should not be lost on ourselves in our future meetings within the Principality: indeed, one of the best things our Association could undertake, would be the compilation of a series of such maps for the whole of Wales and the marches.

Members will do well to provide themselves with Murray's *Handbook for Devon and Cornwall*; and to consult beforehand, as the best epitome, Lysons's *Account of Cornwall*. Those members who intend visiting Scilly, and who are more particularly concerned with early British remains, are strongly recommended to read Borlase's account of the former, and also his

larger work on the antiquities of the mainland; not only in order that they may know what the state of things was at the time he wrote, but also that some degree of justice may be done to that eminent antiquary, whose real opinions seem to have been much misunderstood, and who was greatly in advance of his age in his love for, and knowledge of, archæology. His name and authority must of necessity be frequently appealed to during the meeting; and his work ought, therefore, to be previously studied.

The Admiralty chart of Scilly, by Spence, which may be procured at Wyld's, Charing Cross, is sufficiently large and correct for the purposes of our visit; and members will do well to bring down some copies of it with them. We understand, indeed, that Mr. Wyld, with his usual spirit, is about to bring out a new and cheaper edition of this useful map.

For the convenience of members coming from Wales, we may mention that the tide serves so well on Monday, 25th August, that if steamers leave Swansea for Ilfracombe not later than 8 A.M., or Cardiff for Burnham not later than 10 A.M., on that day, passengers will be able to meet the express trains on the other side of the Bristol Channel in time to reach Truro by 7 P.M. Those who may come from North Wales will find that, by leaving Chester at the rather early hour of 4 A.M., and coming by quick trains all through to Bristol, they will meet the express there, and will also reach Truro at 7 P.M. Members within reach of Shrewsbury or Hereford will have a similar opportunity.

We must again press on the attention of all members, who have not already done so, that they ought to give early notice to the Secretaries, if they wish to find accommodation at Truro, for the throng of visitors will be great.

Apart from the eventualities of health, and public or private business, the success of the Truro Meeting may now be considered to depend upon the state of the weather. The period, however, of the year, selected for our visit, is usually the most favourable for that district; and we are unwilling to indulge upon the matter in any but bright anticipations.

Correspondence.

TRURO MEETING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARCH. CAMB.

SIR,—It is my wish and intention to go along with other members of our Association to the Truro Meeting; and I hope I am not taking an undue liberty in throwing out some suggestions to the following effect.

In the first place, we shall be amongst strangers, who cannot be supposed to know the antiquities of Wales as well as we do, nor to care so much about them; and therefore it would not entertain them much if we were to give them long and dry dissertations, in the form of "papers," upon minute and disputed points. I think that we have erred, at some of our meetings, in letting papers be read upon subjects of this kind, which evidently the common auditory did not care for: such as legal disquisitions about manors,—controversies about the meaning of inscriptions, which not ten men in one hundred can read,—disputes about the style and date of some particular window in a church that few people have seen,—family pedigrees, etc., etc. All these are very interesting things to some; but they are not so to all. I admit that they find proper places in our Journal; but I do not think it is judicious to inflict them upon the patience of a General Meeting.

In the next place, it is well known that there are several subjects upon which Welsh antiquaries are not yet entirely agreed: such as the disputed points of Welsh History, the genuineness of certain Welsh MSS., the precise meaning of the word "cromlech," etc., the exact shape and length of the golden sickle used by the Druids, etc., etc. Now, though my own mind is pretty well made up on things of this kind, I confess that I for one should be very fidgetty on my seat if any of our more enthusiastically patriotic members were to get up at the Truro Meeting, and set other members by the ears with any such apples of discord introduced upon the platform. It seems to me that it would be far more prudent to keep our disputed points in the background on an occasion of this kind; reserving them for our own home meetings, and for our Journal.

Although at the risk of appearing tame and trite to ourselves, we should be upon our best behaviour before our Cornish friends, and shew them as goodly and united a front as possible.

And, in the third place, I do most sincerely hope that we shall avoid taking up much time, on any of the evenings, by our descriptions of Welsh remains. I go to Cornwall to hear what Cornish men have got to say, and to see what Cornish things look like. I had rather leave all my Welsh things at home. I can study them again, afterwards,

when I shall have brought back some new ideas—as I hope to do—from the land of tin. It would be a specimen of bad manners on our part to obtrude our own antiquities on our friends at any great length. The shorter we make our papers, the better for them and for us.

One more remark, and I have ended. The Cornish antiquaries have done a very kind thing in inviting us to their country. We must be prepared to return the compliment; and I do hope that our President and Committee will not leave Truro without requesting our hosts to pay us a return visit next year.

I am, Sir, etc.,

June 17, 1862.

A MEMBER.

BRECKNOCKSHIRE ANTIQUITIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARCH. CAMB.

SIR,—I resume my notes on the state of antiquarian remains round Brecon, commenced in your last number.

(1.) *The Gaer*.—One day I rambled down to this great Roman station, to renew my acquaintance with it. Fortunately very little change seems to have taken place there since the visit of our Association; and no doubt the rich harvest which will be found *under* the soil of the enclosure remains pretty safe for future and more discriminating generations. It should be borne in mind that what is called *The Gaer* is correctly so denominated: it was only the fortified camp of the station, with its wall and fosse; but outside of this must have been the town, the detached houses, the cemetery, and the road. Of these the latter is all that has hitherto been determined; and certainly, in the direction of Brecon, for about a mile, nothing can be more satisfactorily indicated. It is broad, high, well preserved, and noble in appearance. I have not heard of any foundations of houses having been ploughed up in the neighbouring fields, as they have been at Llanio (LOVENTIUM) and other similar places; indeed, I had rather not indicate any suspicions as to where they are likely to be found, nor as to the probable site of the cemetery. They had better remain unknown till the study of national antiquities shall be considered as a main point of national education, and until proper public means shall be taken of preserving the remains which may be found. The Gaer, like the other Roman stations of Wales, would only be pillaged if researches were made in and around it now. *Requiescat in pace!*

I tried once more to make out the inscription on the Roman monument by the side of the great road; but it has become still less legible than before. The male and female figures retain their outlines, but their names cannot be read. The few letters that I could make out satisfactorily, I have carefully preserved. I will only add that some of the Brecon antiquaries could not do better than trace and map out the roads from this to each of the nearest stations, viz., to GOBANNIUM, at or near Abergavenny; to the Gaer on the road to Neath; to the camp described by Mr. W. Rees, on the road to Llanfair ar y

Bryn; to the station above Builth; and to that at the Hay; for of the existence of these five lines of road there is little or no doubt. In fact, the determining of the sites of Roman camps and lines of Roman roads, in all this part of Wales, is a great desideratum in Cambrian archæology.

(2.) Another day's ramble took me to the *Maen Illtyd*, or *Ty Illtyd*, on the slope of the hills about three miles from Brecon, on the road to the beautiful church of Llangasty. It is not worth while stopping to discuss the origin of this appellation; but I may observe that its existence proves that this mound was opened, and *remained open*, at a very early period. It is a chambered mound, most probably sepulchral, opened only at the northern end, and with only one of the chambers exposed. The mound is about a hundred feet long by fifty broad, rising about ten feet above the ground. The portion excavated is only a small one, and there is every probability that other chambers exist in it. Though it is much to be hoped that no unauthorized person will attempt to look for them, yet I conceive that the real antiquaries of Brecon, the members and officers of our Association, would do well, when we next hold an annual meeting there (which I, for one, should be glad to find fixed for 1863), to make preparations for thoroughly exploring this tumulus. The chamber now exposed to the day is of the ordinary form and size, lined with large upright slabs, leading out of another larger and rectangular one, which is destroyed down to its foundations. On the sides of these slabs are certain marks, not modern, but the period of which is uncertain. Similar marks were found by Pennant on a stone in North Wales, and are preserved among his MSS., from which I have been allowed to copy them; and I hope, in a future number of the Journal, to give not only them, but also a plan and delineation of the Ty Illtyd itself. These marks consist of rude crosses terminating in dots, and in some common Roman letters scratched on the stones, the most legible of which, however, gave me nothing more archæological than the word *HERE*.

(3.) The same day took me by the Victorinus stone, already so carefully drawn and described in our Journal by Professor Westwood. This stone still stands in the hedge by the road side, with the inscription facing outwards. It was nearly covered up, on the day of my visit, by a heap of rubbish, which a lithoclastic individual was busily preparing for the repairs of the road. I think it highly probable that this stone is *in situ*, and that it marks a point on the Roman road from *GOBANNIVM* to *GAER*.

Another stone, without an inscription, stands in the hedge *about a mile* nearer Brecon, opposite Peterston House, and probably marks another point on the Roman road. Neither of these stones should be moved, but each of them should be guarded by a wall. Such walls would not cost ten shillings a piece; and I would earnestly press on the attention of our officers at Brecon the desirableness of getting this done by the owners of the land.

(4.) *The sepulchral chamber at Crickhowel*, which was opened many years ago by Canon Payne and other antiquaries, still remains, though the covering stone is off. It stands in a garden close by the road

side, and is fortunately protected from public curiosity by bushes. This, too, ought certainly to be fenced in with a wall, which would no way injure the ground, and would cost only a few shillings.

I conjecture the large mound a mile and a quarter from Crickhowel, on the Brecon road, to be decidedly military, like that at Llangasty; and that the former marks another point on the Roman road, which ran on thence to the camp near Cwmdru, at the foot of the Bwlch, in the direction of Brecon.

(5.) I afterwards found my way up to the famous *TURPILIANVS* stone, well known to our members. The honest old farmer on whose land it lies, is fully aware of its value, and is determined to protect it. It lies at the foot of a stile, under a hedge, just on the boundary of the lands of the Duke of Beaufort and Sir Joseph Bailey; but formerly stood upright in the field (Sir Joseph's), to the south of its present position. Professor Westwood has carefully rendered this inscription; but there are more oghams on the edge than what he was able to decipher, and I purpose giving a careful drawing of the whole to the Association. In the mean time I would beg of our officers at Brecon to communicate on the subject with the owners of the conterminous lands, who, *no doubt*, would gladly take measures for putting the stone upright again upon the spot, which the old farmer can point out (and which ought to be excavated), and for putting a wall round it.

There is so much to see and to say about the neighbourhood of Brecon,—one of the most lovely and most interesting in Wales,—that I must reserve the remainder of my notes for another letter.

I am, etc.,

AN ANTIQUARY.

May 31, 1862.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL QUESTIONARIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARCH. CAMB.

SIR,—In pursuance of your orders, I helped to print that passage of the Report of the Swansea Meeting which says that a sub-committee ought to be appointed to prepare a limited number of questions as to the remains of various kinds existing in each parish, etc., etc. Would it not be as well to reprint the questions of this kind which were published long ago in some of the numbers of the First Series of our Journal? It is true that no answer was ever returned to them, because, I suppose, there are few parishes in Wales possessing *any* parishioners who are capable of making them; and I think I have heard you say long ago that the issuing of similar questions by the French government was attended with very indifferent success.

I don't know, Sir, whether you will permit a poor boy like me to make such an observation; but I believe that if the gentlemen whom you call "*Local Secretaries*" and other grand names, would only take the trouble, you might get that information which, I am afraid, you will wait for in vain from the "*resident gentry and clergy*" mentioned in the Report. I should like nothing better myself than to be ordered

to go through Wales, and send word to you of all that I might see there; but such a piece of work is not to be hoped for by,

Sir, your humble servant,

THE PRINTER'S ANGEL.

PS. Please, Sir, ask some of the kind gentlemen to take me with them to the Land's End when they all go there. I can answer all the questions then myself.

FFYNNON COLLWYN, PYLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARCH. CAMB.

SIR,—In the parish of Pyle, Glamorganshire, about a quarter of a mile down the valley, south-west from the church, is an ancient well close upon the brink of the river, known from time immemorial, and even now in daily commemoration, for its healing qualities. It is all in ruins; but it might be repaired and covered at a moderate cost, and would then become of much greater value to the neighbourhood. I find the following poetical effusion upon it, in an old Welsh periodical:

"FFYNNON COLLWYN. (PYLE.)

"Dafydd Benwyn a' u cant pan gafas welliant, yn 1580.

"Duw gwyn i'm Benwyn beunydd-y fo'n nerth
Ef yw Naf tragwydd,
Duw ddidwyll da i ddedwydd,
Duw'n rhoi fy enaid yn rhydd.

"Gan Dduw nef, on'd ef, iawn yw dwyn-iddo
Fe weddi fo addwyn;
Gwelais gael gwedi gloes gwyn
Gwelliant wrth Ffynnon Gollwyn.

"Yn y rhodd Duw gwyn heb gwyno-Ffynnon
E'r ffyniant i'm puro
Iechyd i'm bryd o fewn bro
Amlygwyd wrth Deml Iago."¹

I am, etc.,

GWLADGARWR.

Archæological Notes and Queries.

Query 116.—REDWALLES, PEMBROKESHIRE.—This name occurs repeatedly in the charters of the *Baronia de Kemeys*. Can any member point out its site, which must be somewhere near Newport or Fishguard?
H. L. J.

Query 117.—CWNNINGER.—This word is believed to occur in the MS. of "*The Fortifying of Milford Haven*," from the Bronwydd MSS. recently printed in our Journal; but which the Editor, not being quite certain about it, has read erroneously as "*coming in*." At the spot

¹ "Eglwys y Pil, Morganwg."

in question, Gallowswicke, or Gellyswick, occurs a small rabbit-warren; and a learned friend suggests that "*cwnninger*" is the true reading. The Editor first read it as *cwninggen* or *cwmingen*, and finally adopted the reading of the printed text. Is this word known to occur elsewhere in Pembrokeshire, or in Wales? H. L. J.

Query 118.—EARLY MINING IN WALES.—Is any account of *early* mining operations in Wales extant in MS.? The printed accounts are sufficiently known. A CORNISH MAN.

Miscellaneous Notices.

THE

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

At a meeting held on the 12th May, the following communications were read:

I.—"Account of Underground Chambers and Galleries recently excavated on the Hill of Conau, in Forfarshire. By A. Jervise, Esq., Cor. Mem. S. A. Scot."

This paper gave the details of the excavations of these singular remains. The chambers occupy the south-east slope of the highest point of the field, which till lately was an uncultivated moor; from which spot there is an extensive view of the adjoining country. The first discovery was of a beehive house, partially excavated from the rock, with converging walls, covered at the top by a flag, of about seven feet and a half in height, and ten feet in diameter at the bottom. From this chamber a passage, partly cut out of the rock, and covered with flags, leads to other similar galleries; of which one is about forty-six feet, and another about twenty feet in length. One of these communicated with the surface by an entrance about eighteen inches in height and two feet and a half in width. Fragments of urns or earthen vessels were found in the galleries, and in various parts quantities of charcoal, calcined bones of animals, horses' teeth, and fragments of other bones. An enamelled bronze pin also occurred. A part of the surface of the field, close to the chambers, was found to be paved with rude flagstones. The form of this spot was circular, and about twenty yards in circumference. Among the flags was found a portion of a bronze ring, also a quern and other stone vessels. Near the end of one of the passages was found a cluster of stone coffins on the surface, some of them containing portions of human skeletons and rounded pebbles.

The paper was illustrated by a careful plan, and sections of the chambers and galleries.

Mr. Stuart noticed the similarity of the remains found in connexion with raths in Ireland, and thought it probable that a fort had originally been placed on the Hill of Conan.

II.—“Notice of Excavations within the Stone Circles of the Island of Arran. By James Bryce, LL.D., High School, Glasgow.”

In this paper Dr. Bryce gave a report of careful investigations made by him, in the course of last year, in various stone circles in Arran. These were carried out with the sanction, and at the expense, of the Duke of Hamilton, who manifested the interest which his Grace took in the investigations by accompanying Dr. Bryce during most of one of the days occupied in the work. The group of circles which formed the subject of inquiry, are situated on Mauchrie Moor. Six of them are tolerably perfect, and two are very incomplete. Of these, Dr. Bryce furnished a careful plan, with details of the dimensions and the relative position of the stones. In the circle first examined a cist was found in the centre, containing an urn, but without any remains of bones. Another circle also contained a central cist, less than three feet in length, in which were found an urn and two flint arrow-heads. On continuing the trench another short cist was discovered, about three feet from the first, on a radius of the circle, and containing the skull and other bones of a human skeleton and two flint arrow-heads. The next circle was found to be paved with small stones, under which appeared flags, probably portions of a cist; but the ground had been previously disturbed, and the objects disarranged. Another circle was found to have a central cist about three feet in length; but it contained nothing, and did not appear to have been ever occupied. In a circle formed of low granite boulders instead of erect pillars, a very perfect cist was found in the centre, about three feet in length, and containing fragments of an urn, besides bits of bone and three flint arrow-heads. Dr. Bryce was prevented from the examination of some single pillars, but intends to carry it out at another time. The result of his present excavations served to convince him that, whatever other end the stone circles may have served, their first purpose was sepulchral. From a minute report furnished to Dr. Bryce by Professor Allen Thomson, of Glasgow, on the skull and other bones, it appeared that the person here interred had been a young person, and not improbably a female, and that some of the bones might possibly be remains of some of the lower animals.

III.—“Notes in reference to the Inscribed Stone near Yarrow Kirk, Selkirkshire. By John Alex. Smith, M.D., Sec. Soc. Ant. Scot.”

The curious monument which forms a subject of discussion in this paper, was discovered at Annan-street, formerly a moor covered with sepulchral memorials, near the Kirk of Yarrow, about fifty years ago. On its surface are portions of inscriptions in Latin, which seem to commemorate several interments. The letters are debased Roman capitals, of the type called Romano-British, and greatly resemble those on some inscribed stones in Wales. The most perfect part of the inscription records, HIC . JACENT . IN . TVMVLO . DVO . FILII . LIBERALIS. It has been supposed that another stone of nearly the same size was found on the same spot about the same time. This stone is figured in Dr. Wilson's *Prehistoric Annals*.

RESTORATION OF LLANBADARN FAWR CHURCH, CARDIGANSHIRE.—It will be remembered that, at the first meeting of the Association, at Aberystwith, in 1847, a resolution was passed in favour of promoting the restoration of the old church of Llanbadarn Fawr. The incumbent was much opposed to the project, and it was in consequence dropped for the time being; but the necessity for it has only become more and more urgent ever since, until at length the new incumbent, the Rev. J. Pugh, has taken the good work in hand, and, having applied to the bishop of the diocese and the archdeacon, has obtained their cooperation. We understand that the Bishop of St. David's, with his accustomed munificence, has given £100 towards the restoration; and that a subscription list is about to be formed, which we recommend to the notice of members, *under certain restrictions*. If this church, one of the most interesting relics of the old ecclesiastical architecture of Wales, being principally of the thirteenth century, is to be repaired and restored in the true archæological sense of the words, then we would say to members that they ought to subscribe liberally; but if the building is to be treated as too many others have been, and to be spoiled,—or rather destroyed,—either by the architect on the one hand, or by the contractor on the other, it is the duty of all antiquaries to stand aloof from the matter, and protest against it. The damage done of late years not only in Wales, but also in England, France, and other parts of Europe, by the so-called restoration of mediæval buildings, is almost equal to the destruction of the last three centuries; and it is high time for the voice of science to protest loudly against this new form of Vandalism. We hold that, in all cases of ancient buildings needing repair, the works should be done in the spirit of honesty and devotion that characterized the original builders; that the architect should not be allowed to amuse himself, and to make experiments, at the expense of his predecessors; nor the contractor suffered to make up for insufficient payment by means of dishonest building. If, therefore, it is intended that any new features are to be introduced into this venerable old church; if anything more is to be attempted than to bring it back to its original condition, as far as that can be archæologically determined; if it is intended to let out the work by contract, and to take the *lowest* tender, instead of employing some builder of high character for skill and capital,—we at once denounce the project, and warn members not to aid in it. It is to be presumed that a committee will be formed to administer the funds to be raised; but until some public declaration and engagement is made concerning the manner in which the restoration is to be conducted, we recommend members to be cautious in giving it their support. We have been informed, however, that the architect consulted by the incumbent is Mr. Butterfield, whose powers as a scientific constructor are well known. If this gentleman succeeds in properly restoring Llanbadarn Fawr church he will merit the thanks of our Association and of all who are really anxious to *preserve* the antiquities of Wales.

Reviews.

EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM. By S. SHARPE.
1 vol. 8vo. London, 1862. J. R. Smith.

THIS is decidedly a good and useful book; and though its title does not indicate any immediate connexion with Wales, yet we gladly bring it under the notice of our readers,—first, because the study of early monumental and megalithic remains will almost certainly take them to the study of Egyptian antiquities; and next, because the study of early palæography, and of any hieroglyphic or cryptic writing, will also ultimately bring in the name, the reminiscences, and the history of Egypt. The two largest *meini-hirion*, or upright stones, unhewn into symmetrical shape, hitherto observed, are on the confines of Abyssinia and Nigritia, a little south of the equator, on the high road from the mountainous country, bordering the Indian ocean, to the Nile; and were found standing by Captain Speke in his late travels. And we have a suspicion that, between the *carneidd* and *cromlechs* of our own wastes,—the *cromlechs* of Etruria passing into elaborate tombs,—the *carneidd* and rock-cave of Syria and Palestine,—and the labyrinths and pyramids of Egypt,—some degree of relationship will ultimately be found to exist. The analogies of archæology can now hardly be studied too extensively; and we are confident that the student of early ethnology must extend his researches not only over the plains of Siberia, but over the savannahs and among the forests of America.

Mr. Sharpe, who is known to the learned world for his *History of Egypt*, brings to his work the great qualification of exact knowledge, and has wisely limited his present researches to a brief description of the great collection in the British Museum; to which, indeed, this book will form as good a handbook as Mr. Simms has furnished us with for the MSS. in the Library. Take, for instance, the following from his Introduction, in which much information is conveyed in a few words:

“If the reader should wish to know the dates given to the Egyptian kings by the best known German scholars, he may learn them by adding to our chronology three intervals of time, for which we have no buildings in Egypt; one of two hundred years, one of five hundred, and one of eight hundred. To our dates immediately before the year B.C. 1000, or between the kings of Lower Egypt and the great kings of Thebes, he may add two hundred years. This is to be done upon the supposition that Rameses II, and not Thothmosis III, is the Menophra of the Sothic period, or of B.C. 1322. To our dates before the year B.C. 1450 he may add five hundred more, or seven hundred in all. This is for the time when the shepherds tyrannized over Egypt, and is to be placed between the great kings of Thebes and the earlier kings, as if no native kings were then reigning; but this interval is not allowed by either Eratosthenes or the Tablet of Abydos, as shewn in pages 76 and 78. To our date of the Great Pyramids and their builders, he may add eight hundred more, or fifteen hundred years in all; but this interval is not allowed by Eratosthenes, as shewn in p. 78. In this way, however, may be learned the dates sometimes given to the Egyptian kings according to what may be called the long chronology.

"As the rise and decline of art probably took place at different times in different parts of Egypt, we should gain much help in our studies if we knew in which districts the several statues and tablets were made, or, at least, from which cities they were brought; but unfortunately this is not always known. Such knowledge, however, may be in part supplied by the nature of the stone, as the larger statues were probably all cut into shape in the quarries from which the stone was dug. In the case, however, of the sculptures on the tablets and slabs, we cannot reason about the place where the artist lived so safely from the nature of the stone, as the slabs may very possibly have been cut into shape in the quarry at one end of Egypt, and had the figures and hieroglyphics cut upon them at the other end of the kingdom.

"The stones used for the statues and monuments in this collection are: red granite, dark sienite, black basalt, from Syene at the first cataract; red granite from Tombos, at the third cataract; limestone from Thebes; limestone from Toura, opposite Memphis; limestone with shells from Memphis; arragonite, or alabaster, from Alabastron; sandstone from Silsilis; sandstone from Abousimbel, above the first cataract; sandstone from Samneh, above the second cataract; gritstone from Heliopolis; porphyry from Mount Smaragdus; a variety of rarer stones in the small objects; fine sandy clay in the porcelain figures; coarse clay from Balas, near Thebes, in the earthen jars; Nile mud mixed with straw in the bricks; marble, perhaps from Greece.

"The metals are: copper from Cyprus and Mount Sinai, in small bronzes; gold from Nubia, silver perhaps from Greece, in small ornaments.

"The vegetables are: flax, in the linen bandages for the mummies; papyrus-reed, written on as paper, and made into baskets; sycamore wood, light both in colour and weight, in mummy cases; dark acacia wood, in mummy cases; ebony; straw, in the bricks and in the mummies of bulls.

"The animal substances are: leather written on as paper; ivory in shape of spoons; bone in shape of spoons; crocodile skin for armour."

The principal part of this book consists of lucid descriptions of the various Egyptian monuments in the Museum, which would not interest our readers unless they could be perused in presence of the monuments themselves; but there are two or three portions of the work well worthy of their attention, because the reasoning employed may apply to Celtic monuments as well as Egyptian. In adverting to what is called the stiffness and other peculiarities of Egyptian sculpture, Mr. Sharpe thus accounts for them:

"The Egyptian bas-reliefs shew us a side-face and legs walking sideways with a front chest and a full eye. They are rather less stiff than the statues: they have rather more of the freedom of drawings, but not so much as we might have looked for. This, perhaps, may be explained from the artists' very little practice in either drawing or painting. They had very little wood, which was what the Greeks painted upon: they had not invented oil-colours, and so could not paint on canvas; and they had no large sheets of paper. They were limited to narrow strips of papyrus, to the walls of their public buildings, and their wooden mummy cases. Hence the art of copying the human form was chiefly studied in making statues; and whatever stiffness arose therein, from the nature of sculptors' materials and tools, was carried into his drawings, and he lost that freedom which a more frequent use of the brush and pencil would have given him."

"These Egyptian statues shew the superiority of rest over action in representing the sublime in art. The Greek statues have much that is wanting in these. The Greeks have muscular action, with far greater beauty and grace. The Greek statues shew pain, fear, love, and a variety of passions;

but few of them are equal to these of Egypt in impressing on the mind of the beholder the feelings of awe and reverence. The two people were unlike in character; and the artists, copying from their own minds, gave the character of the nation to their statues. Plato saw nothing but ugliness in an Egyptian statue. The serious, gloomy Egyptians had aimed at an expression not valued by the more gay and lively Greeks; and the artist who wishes to give religious dignity to his figures should study the quiet, sitting colossus of Amunothph III. In Michael Angelo's statue of the Duke Lorenzo, in Florence, we see how that great master in the same way made use of strength at rest when he wished to represent power and grandeur.

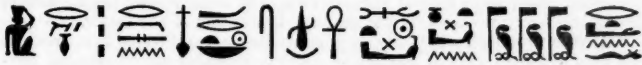
"The origin of the Egyptian style of art must be for the most part sought in the character of the nation, but in part also in the nature of the materials used. These statues were made by measurement, and without the help of models in clay. Indeed, such a model could not be made of the Nile's mud; and though there are spots in Egypt where clay was dug for the small porcelain images, and for jars, yet it was not at hand for the sculptor for models. This in part explains both the merits and the faults of these statues. By trusting to his measures the artist made them for the most part correct in their larger parts; but, from want of a model in soft materials, he had never learned freedom and accuracy of detail; nor had he ever had much practice as a draftsman. In page 22 we have seen how the want of wood and paper to paint upon, and the want of oil-colours to enable him to paint on canvas, deprived him of skill in that branch of his art. Hence, without any practice in modelling, and with very little in drawing, he at once took in hand the chisel, and produced these grand statues by measurement and his eye, out of a block of the hardest stone. The nation's respect for a dead body forbade all study of anatomy by the knife. In making a mummy the body was never cut more than was necessary to take out the softer parts. That the statues were so good, is truly wonderful. When we compare them with the Greek statues, let us remember that the Greek artist had gained his knowledge of the muscles and veins by dissection; he had learned freedom of hand by drawing on wooden panels; he modelled his figures in soft clay before he began to cut the stone; and then it was not, as in Egypt, a hard, dark-coloured sienite or granite, nor a coarse gritstone, nor a limestone full of shells, but a soft and white marble, of even substance, which taught him to aim at beauties and delicacies that would have been very much wasted on the dark-coloured stones of Egypt."

All this is highly satisfactory, and shews considerable discernment on the part of the author. His account of the Great Sphinx is well worth reading:

"This great monster, a couching lion with a man's head, is about one hundred and eighty feet long from the fore-paws to the beginning of the tail. It is at the same time the oldest statue remaining to us, and the largest ever made. (See fig., a restoration of the sphinx.) How natural was it in later ages of less industry and ambition, for people, when gazing on such works, to suppose that men in days of old were of larger stature and of longer lives than themselves! It is of a



"Fig. 65 contains the hieroglyphical words, 'Therefore to him the immortal gods gave victory, life, strength, and the other blessings of a kingdom.'"



We regret that our space does not admit of a notice of the latter portion of this work, which describes the smaller and the miscellaneous articles of the treasures in the British Museum.

RAMBLES IN WESTERN CORNWALL, etc. By J. O. HALLIWELL, F.R.S. London, 1861. J. Russell Smith.

ALL Mr. Halliwell's books bear the stamp of originality and genius—this one among them; and all Mr. Russell Smith's books are admirably printed and put forth,—witness the present volume. In saying this we express in a few words what our readers will certainly bear us out in, when they have read these *Rambles* all through; for though of light style and idea, like his *Tour in Wales*, which we shall notice on a future occasion, this book contains a great amount of antiquarian and topographical matter condensed into an extremely small space, and presented to the reader in an agreeable form. Mr. Halliwell ranks not only as a man of knowledge and taste, but also as one of good sense and acute observation. Hence he fixes on the peculiarities of his district, and describes them vividly and well. He fishes up much curious information, and narrates it clearly; so that he is at once a good guide and a cheerful companion.

We notice this volume chiefly from an antiquarian point of view, and we therefore do not propose to follow the author through his statistical and topographical details: on the contrary, we shall confine ourselves to extracts from the archæological portions, which can hardly fail to be of interest, relating as they do to the extraordinary district which stretches westwards and northwards from Penzance. The author includes in his account nearly all the early remains of this part of Cornwall; and as a good specimen of his manner, both of observing and of narrating, we quote the following passage:

"Zennor Cromlech, nearly a mile to the east of the church, is one of the largest in England; but unfortunately some years ago the western supporter was broken, so that the cap-stone rests partly on the ground. The weight of the latter is estimated at twelve tons. This quoit, as it appeared a century since, is thus well described by Borlase: 'The area enclosed by the supporters is exactly of the same dimensions as that at Mulfra, six feet eight inches by four feet, and points the same way, running east and west. The kistvaen is neatly formed, and fenced every way; and the eastern supporter is eight feet ten inches high from the surface of the earth in the kistvaen to the under face of the quoit. The side-stones of the kistvaen running on beyond the end-stone, form a little cell to the east by means of two stones terminating them at right angles. The great depth of this kistvaen, which is about eight feet at a medium under the plane of the quoit, is remarkable. There is no stone in it; and the stone barrow, fourteen

yards diameter, was heaped round about it, and almost reached the edge of the quoit, but care taken that no stone should get into the repository.' This cromlech, and some others in Cornwall, were no doubt at one time concealed under large conical barrows formed of small stones, the cromlechs themselves being revealed by the gradual diminution of the latter.

"Zennor Cromlech was lately very nearly being transformed into another and very different kind of habitation to that intended by its original constructors. The following paragraph appeared in the *Cornish Telegraph* of Sept. 4th, 1861: 'Zennor Quoit, one of our local antiquities, has recently had a narrow escape. It consists of seven stones, one of which is a large granite slab which lies in a slanting position against the tallest of the uprights. A farmer had removed a part of one of the upright pillars, and drilled a hole into the slanting quoit, in order to erect a cattle-shed, when news of the Vandalism reached the ears of the Rev. W. Borlase, vicar of Zennor, and for five shillings the work of destruction was stayed,—the vicar having thus strengthened the legend that the quoit *cannot* be removed. From Zennor Quoit you see that of Mulfra, and from Mulfra you behold the Chun and Zennor quoits. This quoit is not so often visited as some of the other cromlechs; but it is a remarkable group of stones. There are no other blocks of granite near. It lies directly between Zennor and Towednack churches, about three-quarters of a mile from each. The view from the quoit is very extensive. It commands a beautiful prospect of the Bristol Channel, and eastward, the country as far as Redruth, with the Bodmin range in the distance.'

"Some time in the last century, when the rage for old china was at its height, a dealer in the Strand had a fine jar, for which he asked the sum of fifty guineas. This valuable relic happened to suffer injury in a thunder-storm; but so far from the accident deteriorating its value, the versatile owner immediately advertised it as the only china jar in the whole world that had ever been cracked by lightning, and at the same time doubled its price. In like manner an additional interest attaches to Zennor Quoit since it has obtained the distinction of being that English cromlech which has had the narrowest escape of being converted into a cattle-shed. It is quite curious to note the commencement of the process of transformation in the newly-drilled holes in the venerable blocks of granite. 'To what base uses we may return, Horatio!' But even as it is, this cromlech has been so greatly injured since the time of Borlase, it has lost much of its interest. Of the six supporters mentioned by that writer, three only remain quite upright, two others nearly so, while the sixth has been broken into two pieces, and the covering-stone has fallen down on one end. Scarcely any traces remain of the stone barrow which once surrounded the cromlech. The whole monument is on a gigantic scale, the top-stone measuring about fourteen yards in circumference, and some of the supporting stones being much larger than I have ever observed in similar erections. This cromlech is also called by the country people the Giant's Quoit."

Another passage is curious as illustrating a portion of the paper on the construction of cromlechs, by an illustrious author, lately published in our pages:

"The large stones scattered, as in this locality, over the uncultivated or partly cultivated land, being large weather-worn blocks of granite embedded in the soil, are called under the general title of 'moor-stone.' Much of the land has been cleared of them during the past half century; but although the process of clearing has been proceeding for centuries, many hundreds of acres are still covered with them. 'Notwithstanding their natural obdu-

city,' observes Norden (*temp.* Elizabeth), 'the country people have a device to cleave them with wedges like logs of wood, of very great length, and of what quantity of body they list; so that they make of them, instead of timber, main-posts for their houses, door-posts, chimney and window pieces; and, above all, supporters for their out-houses of greatest receipt.' This description equally applies to the process going on at the present day, the only obstacle arising from the circumstance that, as a general rule, the expense of clearing is too great to yield a good percentage for the outlay. It seems strange that steam, or, at all events, more powerful machinery, is not used for the purpose. Until within the last few years, moor-stones were moved, generally to form hedges, by the aid only of crow-bars and rollers; and it is astonishing how large are some of the blocks that were transplanted by these simple means."

When coming to the famous Round, or Amphitheatre, of St. Just, Mr. Halliwell says :

"We are now within a short distance of St. Just, where the chief object of curiosity is the ancient amphitheatre; but the remains consist only of the circular bank of earth, outside which portions of the supporting wall are visible, so that, in its present state, it is not of much interest. There are faint traces of a small circular spot in the centre, in which perhaps the prompter was located, and whence the actors issued to perform in the wide concentric space around it,—a conjecture which appears to be supported by diagrams in the Bodleian Manuscript of the Cornish mysteries. This amphitheatre, which was in a more perfect state in the time of Borlase, is thus described by that writer: 'We have one whose benches are of stone, and the most remarkable monument of this kind which I have yet seen, now somewhat disfigured by the injudicious repairs of late years; but by the remains it seems to have been a work of more than usual labour and correctness. It was an exact circle of a hundred and twenty-six feet diameter; the perpendicular height of the bank, from the area within, now seven feet; but the height from the bottom of the ditch without, ten feet at present, formerly more. The seats consist of six steps, fourteen inches wide, and one foot high, with one on the top of all, where the rampart is about seven feet wide.' Borlase has also given a plan of the amphitheatre, as well as a section of the rows of seats. It is now in a deplorable state of neglect, and appears, indeed, to be the dusthole of the town.

"This is, or rather was, an elaborate example of the amphitheatres, once so common in western Cornwall, in which the ancient miracle-plays or mysteries were performed before audiences whose simple and earnest faith precluded any idea of profanity in the representation of subjects now and long excluded from the province of the stage. There is a graphic description of the performances of these mysteries in Carew's *Survey*, first published in 1602: 'The Guary Miracle, in English a miracle-play, is a kind of interlude, compiled in Cornish, out of some Scripture history, with that grossness which accompanied the Roman ancient comedy. For representing it, they raise an earthen amphitheatre in some open field, leaving the diameter of its enclosed plain some forty or fifty foot. The country people flock from all sides, many miles off, to see and hear it; for they have therein devils and devices to delight the eye as well as the ear. The players can not their parts without book, but are prompted by one called the ordinary, who followeth at their back with the book in his hand, and telleth them softly what they must pronounce aloud; which manner once gave occasion to a pleasant conceited gentleman of practising a merry prank, for he undertaking, perhaps of set purpose, an actor's room, was accordingly lessoned

beforehand by the ordinary that he must say after him. His turn came. Quoth the ordinary,—‘Go forth, man, and show thyself.’ The gentleman steps out upon the stage, and, like a bad clerk in Scripture matters, cleaving more to the letter than the sense, pronounced those words aloud. ‘Oh,’ says the fellow softly in his ear, ‘you mar all the play;’ and with this his passion the actor makes the audience in like sort acquainted. Hereon the prompter falls to flat railing and cursing in the bitterest terms he could devise; which the gentleman with a set gesture and countenance still soberly related, until the ordinary, driven at last into a mad rage, was fain to give over all. Which trousse, though it brake off the interlude, yet defrauded not the beholders, but dismissed them with a great deal more sport and laughter than twenty such guaries could have afforded.’”

These *Rambles* end with a voyage to the Scilly Islands, which constitutes one of the most interesting parts of the book, from what may be called the novelty of the subject. We may here observe that Borlase is the best authority for all that concerns the antiquities of Scilly; more especially since many monuments, standing in his time, have now been wantonly destroyed. Lysons's *Cornwall*, too, is a good book of reference for these islands; but next to them comes Mr. Halliwell's *Rambles*, because they are the rambles of a good antiquary and an accurate observer. His opening upon them is good :

“If you collect a large bag-full of pieces of granite, of different sizes, and throw them down indiscriminately into a small shallow pool of water, you will probably obtain a tolerably correct model of the Islands of Scilly.

“A strange cluster of islands, islets, and islet-rocks, about three hundred in number, disposed in a small circuit of less than thirty miles of a crystal sea, flowing over the whitest of sands,—a capital place for a school of small boats to play at hide-and-seek in. Many of the islet-rocks are fantastic carns rising above the sea, some mere piles of barren rock; others of a similar character, though of larger extent, having a little scanty herbage on their summits. The grouping of the whole is exceedingly beautiful, and few more charming views in all Britain to be met with than is a sight, on a clear day, of the islet-dotted sea of Scilly, as observed from an elevated spot such as is the top of the Telegraph Tower of St. Mary's. From this station all, or nearly all, the islands and rocks are distinctly visible.

“These islands are of varied, and some of grotesque, shapes. An old writer compares them to a feast disposed in the following manner,—‘St. Mary's, a skate; Tresco, a side of mutton; Bryer, a dried ling; Sampson, a leg of veal; White Island, a sole; Annet, a lobster; Agnes, a venison pasty; an islet near it, half a goose; Tean, a capon; St. Helen's, a shoulder of mutton; Bigger White Island, a bacon ham; St. Martin's, a plum-pudding; Great Arthur and Great Gannick, a brace of rabbits; Great Gannilly, a breast of veal; Scilly, Mincarlo, Guahall, Inisvouls, Northwithel, roast beef and steaks; Little Gannilly, a plaice; Ragged Island, a conger; Nornour, Minewithin, Round Island, Little Gannick, Little Arthur, Rat Island, pies and tarts. The rocks and lesser islands lying scattered about these are as oysters, cockles, and shrimps, for garnish; and the intermixed surrounding seas as the flowing tides of liquor to drown the care of the inhabitants.’”

The author afterwards observes :

“There are numerous barrows on the downs in the neighbourhood of Dick's Carn, nearly all of which appear originally to have been formed in

the same manner, namely, a circular tumulus of earth enclosing in its centre a rectangular kistvaen, the circuit of the whole defined by pieces of granite set close together on their edges. In one instance I observed that a single large block of stone formed one of the side-walls of the kistvaen. Another barrow, now distinguished particularly as the Giant's Grave, was originally surrounded by a close circle of stones, averaging two feet and a half in height, some of which still remain; the kistvaen being formed with two parallel dry stone walls, four large slabs of granite being used for the covering stones. In another example, there was a tumulus surrounded by small stones; the tomb, or rather what remains of it, consisting of three upright blocks of granite with one large covering stone. This is the nearest approach to a cromlech that I met with in these islands; but I suspect that it is only a portion of a rectangular kistvaen of larger than the usual dimensions. It is a curious fact that, as far as can now be ascertained, the cromlech was never used by the ancient Scillonians."

And he ends thus:

"The Scilly Isles abound in pretty sea and land views, in fine and grotesque cliff-scenery, in lovely bays and sea-nooks of every imaginable variety; in walks whose every turn reveals a new combination of land and water; and in the less striking, but not less pleasing, rural inland pictures, where ice-plant covered walls surround gardens in which flowers and plants, that would perish in the other counties of England, flourish luxuriantly. It seems strange that a locality possessing so many attractions to the invalid, who requires a warm, genial atmosphere and a placid retirement, should be, comparatively, so little visited by strangers. But as long as the English public retain their unfortunate tendency to follow the guidance of its silliest class—our fashionable people—so long will they furnish votaries to distant countries, such as Egypt, where the violent alternations of temperature sur-render more than half its patients to certain death; even so long also will they overlook beautiful spots in their own native land, not only far more suitable to the invalid, but to all more agreeable, and to some more interesting."

MURRAY'S HANDBOOKS FOR NORTH WALES AND SOUTH WALES.
London, 1860.

MR. MURRAY, with his usual tact and judgment, has succeeded in giving the public two very serviceable volumes with the above titles. Their author is Dr. Bevan of Beaufort, Monmouthshire, and he has performed his task in a most creditable manner. Like all the other works of this series, these volumes give a vast body of useful and interesting information to the tourist. They are in the main correct, though they may be improved in a new edition; and their price is moderate. Not only are the topographical and statistical portions of the book well executed, but the geological and botanic are also full of merit. They do not supersede the use of purely scientific works, such as those of Professor Ramsay, but they supply as much information as nineteen-twentieths of Welsh tourists can ever require—or retain; and therefore they fulfil their object. The skeleton tours are uncommonly judicious and well arranged. We think, however, that more might have been made out of the picturesque part of the subject,—that very thing which tourists go to Wales for. Had the author

been an artist, he would probably have noted all the best "*bits*" at such places as Bettws y Coed, for example, and would have made a list of all the crack points of view; to miss which, when you go to Wales, argues a certain degree of mental fatuity. For instance, under the head of Beddgelert—that suggestive name to all who have been there—we find the somewhat dry remark, "Many beautiful excursions may be made from Beddgelert." Heart alive! Why Beddgelert is *the place, par excellence!* It is the very centre of the very best scenery in Wales. A whole page should have been given to specify the particular turns of the road, rocks in the woods, pools in the streams, corners of the lakes, etc., where even the dullest of sketchers *must* stop and pull out his apparatus; or where the unluckiest photographer *must* fix his camera, put up his tent, etc.; and where those, who cannot draw a stroke, may almost have the breath taken out of their body by the excessive beauty of the scene. And so in other instances.

However, Dr. Bevan makes up for this omission by going, at much length, into all the antiquities of the Principality; and in this respect he deserves the thanks of his readers. The introductions on the antiquities are good; and the details in the body of the works are good also. They are taken largely from Pennant, always the surest guide where his knowledge and observation apply; and another considerable portion is derived from the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, the bones of which have been picked pretty clean. We do not object to this: on the contrary, we laud the author for it. We only wish that, in his introduction, he had mentioned the labours of our Association rather more specifically. Any stranger taking up these books might lay them down again without knowing that such a body as the Cambrian Archæological Association ever existed; and yet, in respect of Wales, to ignore our Society puts us in mind of the idea of the poet,

"Whom not to know argues oneself unknown."

This omission can be easily supplied in a future edition; and it should be, for the obligation is rather an extensive one.

Mr. Murray makes the same mistake in this as in others of his Handbooks. He prints the maps on paper, so that they are sure to be torn; and he puts them into a pocket of the cover, detached, so that they are sure to be lost.

Now, Reader, we will give you a hint that never struck the acute mind even of John Murray. Have your Handbooks for Wales interleaved with thin paper; fasten a pencil with an indiarubber top to the cover; put two stout elastic bands round the book, to keep down the leaves on a windy day (it is always windy and wet in Wales, you know); and thus turn your Handbook into a Sketchbook. Whenever you come to towering castle, mouldering church, cloudy mountain, or silvery pool, read what Dr. Bevan says about it,—generally so truthfully and so well,—scratch in your artistic memoranda on the blank page, and "book" your own impressions at once. If you won't "stand some *cueru*" for this, we won't go up Snowdon with you!

